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97.B.39

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

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1.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 18th March 1898.*

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# MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

*Friday, 18th March 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarres.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Sir Francis Powell.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL IN THE CHAIR.

Sir JOHN DONNELLY, called in ; and Examined.

*Chairman.*

1. THE Committee have been discussing one or two points, and our attention has been directed to certain deficiencies in the evidence as it now stands. For example, we wish for a plan of the museum showing the position of the buildings when you gave evidence in 1897, and also in the same plan, by means of cross hatching or some other marks of distinction, the buildings as they are now ; so that the plan will tell us at once what existed in 1897 before the demolition, and what exists now. A plan of that kind will be of value to the Committee ?—Since I heard from you on the subject yesterday, General Festing has prepared this plan, or rather altered the existing plan, to show, I believe, what you wish.

2. Have you got the same marks of distinction as we had in your evidence last year ?—I only got this as I came down here, so that I cannot be certain with regard to that. As to the indication here, the pink tint indicates those portions of South Kensington Museum which are of a more or less permanent character ; the brown part old and temporary buildings, and the hatching shows the buildings removed since last year.

3. In your previous evidence you mentioned certain marks and letters by way of description of the different parts of the buildings ; for instance, that temporary buildings in the court were marked "M," and we find in your evidence over and over again the letter "M" ?—If I take that plan away I will have the "M" and so on put on in exactly the same way.

4. The next point which occurred to me was with reference to what we called the blue paper ; as it stands it is somewhat voluminous, and probably the Committee would not care to have the whole of it in evidence ; would you present to us so much of it as you believe will be useful to us ?—Yes, I have them here ; they were used,

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*Chairman—continued.*

apparently they were never properly handed in ; but they were used during the early days of the Committee, and constantly referred to ; I have them here, omitting the long list of names, and several which appear in another form in the blue book, and I would propose that these should be printed. I think they have all, more or less, been referred to in the evidence, and they are not to be found in the blue book.

5. Are those as they stood last year ?—Yes.

6. Have any changes been made since ?—Well, of course if you take the memorandum on circulation page 4, paragraph 14, it says that in 1895, 31,000 objects were on loan to 51 provincial museums, 19 temporary exhibitions, and so on ; in 1897 the number of museums had increased to 62, the number of art schools to 262, and the number of objects to 35,400. I could put that in as a note to show the increase up to date ; it would not do to alter the paper, because they were referred to as they were, but I might put in as a note to that what I have said.

7. With regard to Question 315 ; have you covered that ground now ?—Yes, that is all in.

8. The next point was as to the expenditure. In going through the materials at command I find very great difficulty, in fact more than difficulty, in putting the expenditure under proper heads, and the Committee will be greatly served if you will give the best evidence you can that we may have materials on which to report as to the expenditure. I indicated to you some heads ?—I shall get that out. I am afraid I have not got it done yet. There was a paper handed in after that, but it only covered the South Kensington Museum and not the other.

9. I gave you an indication of what I thought the Committee would wish for ?—Perhaps you will let me hand it in another day.

10. I think the next point is the Order in Council ;

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18 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

strong was sent to Italy, and then he purchased things for the museum, no doubt, to the extent of 20*l.*, or possibly more, directly on his own authority.

35. What is the practice now as regards the purchase of books for the library?—That is done by the director of the museum; he gets, I suppose, recommendations from the keeper and he authorises the purchases.

36. The same practice obtains, I understand from the evidence, both in Dublin and in Edinburgh?—That is so. I am afraid I have not made myself clear; I was differentiating the power that the director of art has with regard to the museum vote, as different from the power of the museum director himself.

37. When those 20*l.* purchases are made, under what vote are they made?—Out of the museum vote.

38. Generally, as a whole?—No, under the sub-head.

39. The sub-head for purchases?—Yes.

40. Is that all you have to say on that point?—It would be out of F 2, Art Collections.

41. What year is that?—I am referring to 1897–98, when we were taking the evidence for F 2, Art Collections, including Art Library, Grant in Aid of Purchase.

42. The amount for purchase is a fixed sum, and every 20*l.* is taken from that sum, diminishing the balance?—That certain amount is under that sub-head, and formerly it was returnable at the end of the year; if there was a balance it was returnable to the Exchequer. That is no longer the case. You asked me how it was checked.

43. Yes; it has been in evidence once, but still it would be well to have it again?—You will see, on page 332 of the Estimates for next year, 1898–99, at the bottom of the page, a note: “The expenditure out of this grant in aid will be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General; but the unexpended balance, if any, will not be surrendered.”

44. Then we reach a matter which we all know there has been some discussion about, and that is the cessation of office by Mr. Weale; can you explain the circumstances under which he retired?—The Treasury Letter, of the 2nd March 1897, authorised the continuance of his services, after he had passed the age of 65, in the following terms: “I am to request you to inform the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that my Lords sanction the extension of Mr. Weale’s services for such period, not exceeding one year from the 8th March 1897, as may elapse before the Report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum.” The Report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum was on the 23rd July 1897, and therefore the department had no power to retain his services after the 23rd July 1897, and I had no right to pay him after that date. As a matter of fact, owing to certain circumstances, I did pay him after that date; I let him go on leave and finish up his work, and it turns out that I exceeded my powers, as I have received a query first of all from the Audit Office on the 24th January, a query on my October account: “It is requested that the date of the Report of the

*Chairman—continued.*

Committee on the South Kensington Museum, referred to in the letter of the 2nd March 1897, may be given.” I stated “The date of the Report is 23rd July 1897,” and then I have been asked, “Although the date of the Report of the Committee is the 23rd July 1897, it is observed that Mr. Weale has been paid to the 22nd October 1897; an explanation is requested.”

45. Is that from the Treasury?—From the Comptroller and Auditor General. I gave the explanation asked for, and I hope it will be satisfactory. The point is, that the department had no power to employ him after the 23rd July 1897, and the only way to have employed him after that date would have been for my Lords to certify to the Treasury, I forget what the words are, the Order in Council of the 15th August lays down that “it shall be competent for the head of any department to call on any officer of such department to retire at the age of 65 on such pension as the length of his service may warrant. Retirement shall be compulsory for every officer on attaining 65 years of age, but on special circumstances the Lords of the Treasury may, at the instance of the department, extend the officer’s employment for a further period, in no case exceeding five years, on being satisfied that such officer’s retirement at 65 would be detrimental to the interests of the public service.” The Treasury circular says: “My Lords, before assenting to the prolongation of service beyond the age of 65, will ask to be satisfied that it is proposed solely in the interests of the public service, and not for the convenience or benefit of the individual officer, and they will lay, yearly, before Parliament a return as to the officer whose tenure of service has been thus prolonged, with the reasons on which the department have asked for and obtained prolongation.” Therefore the only way in which Mr. Weale’s services could properly have been retained after the 23rd July 1897 would have been that the Lord President or Vice-President should have certified to the Treasury that it was necessary in the interests of the public service, and obtained a further Minute for his retention.

46. The Lord President did not take any such course?—No.

47. Does that complete what you have to say with respect to Mr. Weale’s retirement?—I think so; that is all I know of.

48. I would call your attention to the evidence given last year by Sir Charles Robinson, in which he speaks, to use his own words, of retaliation. It is Question 7550, and there he gives certain cases. The Committee would be glad to hear such answers as you desire to submit to what was said by Sir Charles Robinson there?—I think he dealt principally with what has been called the Molinari Gateway, and it affects Mr. Armstrong’s report on it. The other points are in 7552: certain chairs, a “Vernis Martin” cabinet, an agate cup, and an oriental vase. Those were all purchased at the Hamilton Sale on the responsibility of the late Mr. Mundella; he was responsible for those purchases, and he intended, as you are aware, to have given evidence here, and he sent for the papers on these points. As I understand it is desired that I should explain the steps he took before he authorised those



18 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

those purchases. First, with regard to the value, the money cost, I should point out that they were bought in open market, at a sale, and therefore, one may consider that at that period the price was the fair market or exchange value, as settled at a large and important sale. Except in cases of fraud, that may, I suppose, be fairly taken as the exchange value of an object. But to prevent any running up, or our being mistaken, Mr. Mundella took a great deal of trouble in the matter, and all the objects for which we were to bid were valued by the late Mr. Whitehead, the broker, who had acted for many years, not only for the Science and Art Department, but also for the British Museum. No bidding went on beyond the price at which he had valued the objects. As regards the value to the museum, the matter was first gone into before the objects came into London, on the catalogue of the Hamilton Collection, and with the knowledge that there was in the department as to a great number of the objects that were for sale, they having been previously exhibited at South Kensington, in the Loan Collection of 1862, and a list was prepared by Sir Philip Owen, the Director of the Museum, with the aid of Mr. Whitehead and Mr. Thompson and Mr. Wallace.

49. Who were those gentlemen, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Wallace?—Mr. Thompson was the Assistant Director, and Mr. Wallace the Keeper of the Art Collection; they were men who had been a long time in the museum, and had very great experience and considerable knowledge of art matters. Then as soon as the objects came to London they were gone over again, and all the objects that were to be bid for were selected by Sir Philip Owen, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Wallace, subject to Mr. Whitehead's valuation, and also subject to a reference to the Director for Art, Mr. Armstrong. I think with the exception of some small number, all the purchases were sanctioned by Mr. Mundella himself; I found a small number that had been sanctioned by Sir Francis Sandford, who was then the Secretary of the Department, in the absence of Mr. Mundella. With regard to the specific objects mentioned, the chairs, the cabinet, the cup, and the oriental pot, it happens that those same objects with two or three others were trotted out in a newspaper called "Truth," in the year 1883, just a year after the sale.

*Lord Balcarres.*

50. May I have the reference to this article?—I have got it before me.

*Chairman.*

51. Can you tell the date?—July 26th, 1883. They have often been trotted out since, but they were brought out in very much the same language as you have heard in some evidence that has been given, and Mr. Mundella had them all looked up and the points gone into. This was a paper that was sent to him, and which he had and which he intended to have brought to the Committee here. All those objects that were purchased, were purchased on the recommenda-

*Chairman—continued.*

tion of the museum officers and Mr. Armstrong, and under a valuation put upon them by Mr. Whitehead; now I will read the article in "Truth." "Another clever make-up was a small ornamental cup and cover of agate, set with stem and silver gilt, and studded with rubies (No. 2031), which was purchased as a fine example of old Italian work for 535*l.* 10*s.* There was not one atom of it genuine old work, but had simply been put together to please Mr. Beckford, by Storr and Mortimer, the Bond Street silversmiths, and was worth, perhaps, 100*l.* A letter was at once written when that came by Mr. Mundella's direction to Messrs. Hunt and Roskill, and they replied on the 9th August 1883. "In accordance with your wishes we have made a careful search in our books, and in those of our predecessors, Messrs. Storr and Mortimer, as far back as 1822, and beg to inform you we find no trace of having supplied or mounted for order the silver gilt mounted agate cup which was submitted for our inspection on Saturday last, and which we understood was purchased by your commissioners at the Hamilton sale." There were a number of other recommendations by persons outside the department, but as they are dead now, I do not like to quote their names. The "Vernis Martin" commode, as it is called, was selected first by Mr. Wallace and Mr. Thompson, and was valued at a higher price than was given for it by Mr. Whitehead; and also as to the oviform vase of Oriental brown ware that Mr. Whitehead valued at 100*l.*, it was bought for 71*l.*

52. Do I understand you to say that Mr. Mundella approved of these purchases?—Yes, that was my reason for bringing forward the point, as he had intended to bring evidence on that point.

53. Is that all with reference to that sale?—Yes.

54. Have you any remark to make on the chairs called Cardinal Wolsey's?—Yes; they were valued at more by Mr. Whitehead than they were purchased for.

55. Were they supposed to belong to the Cardinal?—Oh, dear no; I never heard of any one supposing they were Cardinal Wolsey's chairs.

56. There is no suggestion that they belonged to him?—There were a number of other chairs bought at the same time, but as you heard Mr. Purden Clarke say, they were fully worth that amount, and I expect if they were sold now, we cannot tell, they would probably fetch it.

57. Does that complete your remarks in answer to Sir Charles' evidence?—Mr. Purden Clarke has just sent me down a letter, he has inquired of Sir Samuel Montagu, and he says: "Sir Samuel Montagu only gives the price he paid for a pair of chairs similar to ours, 275*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* The more distinctive Indian chair, for which over 600*l.* was paid, is not in his London house now."

58. Is that all you have to say in answer to Sir Charles Robinson?—Yes.



18 March 1898.

Mr. THOMAS ARMSTRONG, C.B., called in; and Examined.

*Chairman.*

59. I wish to call your attention to the evidence given by Sir Charles Robinson respecting the Molinari gateway, and to ask you what you have to submit on the subject?—I desire to add to the evidence I gave with regard to the gateway bought in Milan in 1885. When I was giving evidence before I neglected to state that I never supposed that the marble medallions and the busts inserted into the ornament could have formed part of the original structure. I did not think at the time it was necessary to say anything about these adjuncts to the main body of the gateway. They are of very coarse and common workmanship, and it is obvious to anyone that they could not have been made for or put into their present position by the designers and carvers of the very beautiful ornament with which the whole of the gateway is decorated. For my own part, I must admit that I should prefer to have them removed; but for the public it may be better to have busts and medallions there, even of very inferior workmanship, to show something like the intention of the architect in providing the recesses. I produce five photographs of the gateway, one of them representing the whole of it as it stood in the Piazza Sta. Maria delle Grazie, with a figure which gives the scale. This will enable those Members of the Committee who have never seen the gateway to form some idea of its size. I find from my diaries that I first saw the gateway set up, as I have described, on the 22nd November 1883, and I wrote to the museum about it at once, sending a good photograph. On my return to England, I made a more formal report on it, dated 16th January 1884. Sanction was given by Lord Carlingford, the Lord President, on a Paper, dated 14th February 1884, to negotiate the purchase of it at the price asked, 15,000 lire, for the next financial year, and Molinari wrote, on the 6th of March, accepting the conditions. It will thus be seen that the action of the department in making this purchase was not hasty, and that it was not made by me in Italy, as has been stated in Sir J. C. Robinson's evidence. During the time the acquisition was being considered, I never heard a word of the report made on the gateway by Mr. J. C. Robinson. I had never heard of it before, nor have I afterwards until it was mentioned in evidence given before the Committee. Sir Philip Owen, the director of the museum, whose joint responsibility for the purchase cannot be questioned, never mentioned it to me. He was then, as before and afterwards, on very friendly terms with Mr. Robinson. Most of the official papers about the gateway are in Sir Philip's handwriting, notably the one on which Lord Carlingford gave sanction to negotiate. Mr. Richard Thompson, at that time assistant director of the museum, who has since retired, tells me that he thinks he did hear something about a report on the gateway being made by Mr. Robinson, but he never saw it. Had I heard of its existence I should certainly have taken

*Chairman—continued.*

care to have it shown to me. Sir J. C. Robinson in his evidence (7551) speaks of the gateway as being made up, "three fourths of it being modern and a further portion of fragmentary discordant ancient work stuck together without rhyme or reason," besides more to the same purpose (7552). I say that it is a fine and harmonious composition, that it is not inferior in style and workmanship to any specimens, even fragments of renaissance carved ornament in the South Kensington Museum; that some portions of it, for instance, the wide pilasters with low relief ornament are not surpassed in quality of relief, in grace of design and beauty of workmanship, by any specimens either in the South Kensington Museum or elsewhere. Moreover, I am convinced, after consulting the best experts, that it could not be made for the price paid for it by the museum, even if designers and carvers of sufficient skill and taste could be found to execute such a work. I believe that the best experts, and by experts I mean those who design and execute similar work, will support me in this opinion. I know that Mr. Brock, R.A., and Mr. Onslow Ford, R.A., do so. Mr. Stephen Webb, an artist of great repute as a designer of ornament, tells me that he is in the habit of holding up this gateway to his pupils as the finest example of work in its style. I knew all about the information Sir Charles Robinson obtained from Faettini of Brescia through Gagliardi of Florence in 1887, and had a copy of the letter in my pocket when I was giving evidence last Session. I covered all there was in that letter by telling the Committee that Faettini had told me, while standing with me before the gateway in the museum, that he had made nearly the whole of it. I also told the Committee that Molinari had said to me when I first saw him that it had been much restored under the direction of a very clever young architect, who was since dead. He could not have meant Faettini, whom he never mentioned, for I saw Faettini alive long afterwards. The gateway is at South Kensington for anyone to see, and I think the Members of the Committee will be doing less than justice to me, who am attacked, if they do not inspect it, and perhaps also get concerning it the opinions of some artists of eminence who design and carve, or model such work. They will, on seeing it, be able to judge of the probability of such a person as Molinari, or indeed any other person, making up such a massive stone structure on the chance of selling it.

59\*. I understood you to say that Lord Carlingford approved of the purchase?—Yes, it was in his time; he signed the paper.

60. Is that all you have to say in answer to Sir Charles Robinson?—Yes.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

61. I am not going to raise any question about the purchases, but has it ever struck you that in this case and in other similar cases it would be well and an advantage rather if the parts that are



18 March 1898.]

Mr. ARMSTRONG, C.B.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

are added could be marked either in colour or in outline so that the original parts that remained could be easily distinguished?—I think it most desirable to do so in every case.

62. It could do no harm?—I proposed that for the antique statues which we have that a strong red line should be put wherever there is restoration.

63. And you see no objection to that?—I am very much in favour of such a course.

Lord Balcarres.

64. You mean, in reference in this particular case, it would be on a picture that you would

Lord Balcarres—continued.

mark it?—No; in this particular case I should myself take out those things I know to be restorations; as to the rest I cannot tell; as to the medallions, they are so bad that nobody who looks at it can suggest they were ever made by the same artist.

65. I do not want to see this thing broken up, or to see these ugly medallions removed, but would it not be possible to amplify the label in some way to show it; you read us the label on page 298: "A gateway said to have been brought from Ghedi, near Brescia"; so that people are not told whether these medallions are genuine or not?—I think it would have been much better to have stated it much more fully.

Sir JOHN DONNELLY, re-called; and further Examined.

Lord Balcarres.

66. I wish to ask you one or two questions; apparently the whole question of the Hamilton sale has been re-opened. You said, I think, that at the period the prices paid for these objects might be considered as fair cases; also I think that no bidding went on beyond the prices at which the objects were valued?—Yes; well, I think possibly in one or two cases there might have been this kind of thing; you know a broker, especially when he has been in the employment of the department, and is in the confidence of the department, sometimes goes to guineas when things are only valued at pounds, and when the limit is 500*l.* he sometimes, especially if he has failed in getting other objects, and therefore there is money left, bids guineas, and goes one bid beyond. There may have been one or two cases of that kind, but broadly speaking, nothing was paid over the valuation, and the sanction of the Vice President—

67. Mr. Clarke, you will remember, told us that just before the sale an extra 200*l.* was granted towards the purchase of one single object?—That is possible.

68. Does not that rather indicate that the price at which they had been originally valued was raised?—Yes; I remember the instance; it was a thing that Mr. Whitehead had valued at a certain amount, and he came back and said he had put it too low; it was on his recommendation that the increase was made.

69. I understood you also to say that it had never been suggested that the chair belonged to Cardinal Wolsey?—I said I had never heard of its being suggested.

70. I think you must have overlooked the fact that in 3763 Mr. Clarke told us that he changed the label himself, and apparently up to a recent time this object had been exhibited as a specimen of Tudor furniture?—Cardinal Wolsey, you begin with. It might have been exhibited as Tudor; I said I had never heard it suggested that it belonged to Cardinal Wolsey. I know it was put in the catalogue, "Said to have belonged to Cardinal Wolsey," but I always understood it was well known that it did not, or that there was no idea that it ever had, or could have, belonged to him.

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Lord Balcarres—continued

71. I understand that whether it is stated specifically on the label that it belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, or not, it certainly stated it to be an object of that period; is not that the case from Question 3763, and the answer?—Yes; he changed the label. I believe it is not Cingalese.

72. That does not matter; at any rate, it was not until comparatively recently that the Department understood what this thing really was?—The original label, I have got it here, as taken from the Hamilton catalogue, bore: "Ebony chair, with arched back," and so on, "said to have belonged to Cardinal Wolsey"; and it is now called Moluccos. Shortly after it was bought, it was pointed out that it was made of Celebes ebony, and probably made in the Moluccos in the 16th century.

73. I see, referring to this matter, Mr. Clarke says Sir Samuel Montagu is said to have paid over 300*l.* for a very much finer chair of the same kind?—Yes.

74. Did I understand you to say in your statement just now that it was a pair of chairs, and not one?—That is a different one. The letter sent down to me gives the price he paid for a pair of chairs similar to ours. The more distinctive Indian chairs, for which over 600*l.* was paid, are not in his London house, and therefore he could not get the price he absolutely paid for them. The one he was referring to in the evidence you have mentioned was undoubtedly the one at the price of 600*l.*, and which is finer than those we bought.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

75. What do you call Indian chairs; were they made in India?—Yes; I believe from European designs.

76. What is the date of their manufacture?—I should not like to commit myself to that; the only point I wished to bring before the Committee was what Mr. Mundella would have done to show that every care had been taken that we bought the right things for the museum, and that no excessive price had been given for them. I do not think you can go beyond that.

Sir Henry Howorth.

77. I do not propose to ask any question about the detail of these purchases; it is only with regard

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18 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

regard to the method of purchase, which is a more important matter for us. I understood that Mr. Whitehead was a person consulted as to the value of these objects?—Yes, the late Mr. Whitehead.

78. The art dealer in Bond Street?—No; he had rooms near Christie's, in King Street.

79. But he was an art dealer?—Yes, I suppose he was a dealer; but he was principally known as a broker, I think.

80. He was employed to purchase for different people at these large sales?—Yes, by the South Kensington and the British Museums.

81. And also by the Rothschilds and other people?—That I cannot speak for.

82. Do you think it a wise thing for a museum like the South Kensington Museum to rely for the value of articles which it is proposed to purchase on a man who is receiving commissions from pretty nearly all the wealthy men of the country, to purchase against the museum or for the museum as it may be, and to take that man's valuation alone?—We do not take his valuation for the purchase, we only take his valuation as what he considers the value, and we bid up to that. Of course many of the things he valued were purchased for the museum at a very much smaller price than he valued them at. To come to the general question, it is a very difficult one; it depends primarily on the man you employ. As it was, the people at South Kensington Museum from the beginning had great reliance on Mr. Whitehead, so had the British Museum people; but I agree that it is not desirable, possibly for various reasons, that one man should always be employed in this, and we very often now employ different brokers, and sometimes the museum officers bid. I myself should like museum officers to bid if they could have the time; they say they would be run up; the thing is possible, but there are advantages and disadvantages in any course you can suggest, and I think the only thing to do is to do the right thing at the moment.

83. I am not speaking at all of giving commissions to brokers, that, of course, I do not raise at all; I am speaking of the practice of putting a valuation upon the objects the museum proposes to purchase, putting the value which is put upon them really by a man in the trade who is dealing and taking commissions from all kinds of people. Do you think it would be wiser to do as they do at the British Museum, viz., fix their own prices, and employ Mr. Whitehead as the broker to buy for them, but fix their own prices themselves?—We have always fixed our own prices; he said what he thought the thing would fetch or its commercial value, but the department has not always said "You may go up to that."

84. No, but virtually, I presume, his valuation would mark the high water level of your commission?—It was very often done, that the broker or somebody else said "You will not get that for 500*l.*," and we thought it was no use bidding for it at all as we were not prepared to give 500*l.*, or whatever the amount might be.

85. I am raising the question where you have a valuation from a man in the trade in this way, instead of relying on yourselves or some

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

independent person?—The principal thing is, of course, to get the best valuer, and the man who is doing the biggest business is, as a rule, the best valuer; he knows most about it. The department, or the heads of the department are not bound to pay his valuation, but he gives them a general idea of what the thing will fetch at a sale, and then it depends on the recommendation of the museum officers, or of the experts, who may also be employed, how far you should go, and the price fixed, to which the bidder is to go, is very often much less than the man valued it at. We have said "It is not worth while paying more than so-and-so for this for the museum."

86. That is quite true. I must put this rather strongly; I do not object to the museum going to a broker like Mr. Whitehead, and saying "We propose you shall buy this object for us; we will give you a commission; what do you consider to be its value," but to get that man, without his being employed by you as a broker, to put a valuation on an object you are going to bid for, against his clients, seems to me to be a very dangerous proceeding?—I do not see how it affects the question.

87. His allegiance is not to you; he has another motive in fixing a valuation than the value of the article, a very different motive altogether?—I do not follow. What can he do? In giving a valuation there is no interest between his clients and ourselves, in the matter of his valuation; there may be in the matter of bidding, but not in the valuation.

88. I put it that the man who virtually fixes the price that you are prepared to go to can afterwards go to Rothschild and say: "You must buy this thing; the museum are prepared to give 600*l.* for it, or 1,000*l.*" His position is not an independent one?—That is disgraceful dishonesty on the part of a broker, and when you get a broker of position you assume that he is tolerably honest, and that he is not going to destroy his position altogether by being found out in a thing of that kind.

89. Do you not think that it is better to have no suspicions of the kind and not to have men who are dealers valuing the articles you propose to buy for the museum; do you not think it better to rely, for the valuation of objects, on people who are not dealers and brokers?—You speak as though we were always doing it; it is very seldom that it is done, and when you want a real valuation the only person you can get a valuation from is a professional dealer or broker. An amateur's valuation is not worth anything, and therefore, if you are to have a valuation at all, you must go to a broker, and you go to the best you can. One reason why Mr. Whitehead was employed, I forgot to mention, was that he was employed both by the South Kensington and British Museums, so that the silly idea that we were bidding against one another should never arise, and it was a medium of preventing by any accident our bidding against one another.

90. He was employed as a broker for that reason, but that does not apply to his valuing the articles; he was not employed to value articles for the British Museum?—I should be very



18 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

very sorry to say that he was not; in fact, I should think that in all human probability he was. I am certain he was to this extent, because I have heard one of the British Museum officers ask him what he considered was the value, not the value, but the likely price at which a thing would sell at a sale; in the room at Christie's.

91. You paid Mr. Whitehead a fee for his valuation?—No, we did not; not that I know of; he was paid for buying at the sale, but not for a preliminary valuation at all.

92. Is he not on your list of technical advisers who were paid fees?—No.

93. About Mr. Weale; as to the correspondence portion which you read out, will the letters be put in?—I will put in the whole of the Treasury letter if you like. I read the material part.

94. In that letter mention is made, I believe, of the report of the Committee as fixing a certain termination?—Yes.

95. Will you please read out the particular place in which the Report of the Committee was mentioned?—"For such period not exceeding one year, from 8th March 1897, as may elapse before the Report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum."

96. Has this Committee, in your view, reported up to this moment in any way except in an interim fashion?—The Committee has reported and ceased; in fact, this evidence only comes before you by a Resolution of the House, as I read in the Votes and Proceedings the other day.

97. The point I want to make is: that the Report of the Committee, in the view which most of us hold, is the final Report of the Committee?—It was the final Report of the Committee, and the Committee ceased. That Committee can make no more report; it is dead and gone.

98. Upon that we hold a very different view, some of us; in fact, we have discussed it here. You speak in view of your interpreting the Report actually made last Session as our final Report?—It was not only my view, but it is the view of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

99. When was Mr. Weale dismissed; what was the date of his dismissal?—He was not dismissed, unless you call superannuation dismissal.

100. Did he not receive a letter five days after Parliament rose dispensing with his services?—I do not remember the date; it must have been more than five days.

101. Parliament rose on Friday, 6th of August?—I am afraid I have not got a copy of that letter.

Chairman.

102. Could you send the letter in so that we may have it printed?—Yes, but I think it must have been more than five days after the rising of Parliament. I remember what it said; that there was no occasion for his further services.

Sir Henry Howorth.

103. Has a correspondence taken place between the department and the Treasury since August of last year as to the cessation of office of Mr. Weale?—Yes, I think Mr. Weale's case was mentioned *à propos* of some other matter.

0.5—1.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

104. Can you produce the correspondence?—Well, I can if I am authorised to do so.

105. Can you tell us the number of letters that passed on the subject?—The one from the Treasury, and the one from the department.

106. Two letters altogether?—As far as I remember now.

Lord Balcarras.

107. Since August last?—In connection with this the Treasury did say something about Mr. Weale, and no reply was given; that is all I remember at the present moment. Whether those letters are to be produced or not is a matter that you must ask the Treasury about.

Sir John Gorst.

108. Did not the Science and Art Department make an application to the Treasury for a gratuity to Mr. Weale at his retirement?—Yes.

109. There was a letter written, and a letter in reply?—Yes.

Sir Henry Howorth.

110. The Chairman asked you to produce a sort of draft accounts in which they should be distinguished rather more definitely than they are in the accounts at present presented. Would it be possible for you to produce a draft in which the expenditure upon the art museum, and the expenditure on the science museum, should be absolutely separated?—Quite impossible.

111. If it were impossible to do it entirely, could it be done partially?—Yes, we could make a guess: it could only be a kind of guess, you know, because the same persons are employed on different sides.

112. We will put this in a hypothetical way. Supposing a grant of money is made by Parliament for furniture in a particular department, would it be possible for you to show in your accounts that that money was expended on that specific matter, and not transfer it to something else; quite honestly transferred, but transferred to some other heading in either the science museum or the art museum?—The Audit Office would take very good care it was not transferred, either honestly or dishonestly. The accounts go through the most elaborate and careful checking, and as for applying money given for furniture to something else, I should have been had up ages ago.

113. You misunderstand me; take the money which is devoted for the purpose of providing cases, say, in the art museum?—That is not so; there is no differentiation.

114. Cannot there be a differentiation; we want to get that differentiation; in your annual vote, a certain sum should be put down, as in the British Museum, for cases, and a certain amount for furniture of other kinds?—So it is in our votes; the money is taken for furniture approximately for each different branch of the museum; you can see it in the accounts.

115. The science and the art museum?—Yes.

116. And you could not make it more definite and more precise than it is now?—I do not know that you could make it more so. Just in the same way as the heating and lighting, "Furniture,



18 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

niture, materials, and fitting up objects for exhibition; general administration, 400*l.*; South Kensington Museum, including the India Museum, 2,800*l.*; Bethnal Green Museum, 900*l.*; College of Science, 800*l.*; Royal College of Art, 200*l.*"

117. Would it not be possible for you to discriminate between the furniture you want for the science museum and the furniture you require for the art museum?—What is the use?

118. We should judge of that; but if it were possible one would like to have your answer, if it is possible to do it?—Of course it is possible; it would interfere with the reasonable use of the objects, because you would ear-mark a case "art museum" or "science museum," and then when you wanted it *vice versa* in any other way you could not use it. Really the only result would be to interfere very much with the working of the museum.

119. What I am driving at is this: suppose Mr. Clarke puts in a demand for 600*l.* that he needs very much indeed for cases for his department, that 600*l.* is put into the vote?—Yes.

120. And that 600*l.*, the vote being a vote that covers both museums, the whole vote next year is devoted to the science museum, and there is a complete lapse in regard to any expenditure on cases in the art museum; we want to prevent that which has occurred?—Has occurred? No, never.

121. I am told so?—Nothing like it. Really a case of that kind is so extraordinary, the idea that all the furniture was given to the science when it was taken for the art. It is used as it is wanted, and if Mr. Clarke thought he was not getting his proper share of the vote, all he has got to do is to complain to me, and if I could not put it right I should tell the Vice-President or the Lord President, and I suppose he would put it right; but in the whole time I have been there I have never heard, and he has never made any complaint to me, certainly, that he did not get his full share. I hope he has not been telling other people differently.

122. No, it has not been Mr. Clarke?—Somebody else then; it is quite false.

Lord Balcarras.

123. All these items are subject to the Comp-

Lord Balcarras—continued.

troller and Auditor General?—Yes; the Comptroller and Auditor General does not know when we buy a case whether it is for the art museum or the science museum.

Sir Henry Howorth.

124. That is what we think he ought to know. With regard to the 20*l.* limit, has some change been made since last year at all?—Yes.

125. What is the change?—Only a verbal change. Instead of the old paragraph standing as it did it is now that "the museum staff are authorised to make purchases of objects not exceeding 20*l.* in value, but the science or the art director should in all cases be consulted before any purchase is made except when the exigencies of the case render it necessary to make the purchases without such consultation so as to prevent the loss of the object." It is relaxed in that way "Whenever this happens the fact of the purchase having been made should be at once reported to the science or art director, as the case may be. The intention of this article is to save reference to the board."

Chairman.

126. Is that the article under which you are working now?—Yes, it is practically the same as it was before; only, as it looked before, hypercritics might have said they had no business under any circumstances to make a purchase without reference to the science or the art director, and it is now relaxed to show that "except when the exigencies of the case render it necessary to make a purchase without such consultation so as to prevent the loss of the object."

Sir Henry Howorth.

127. Is that a minute of the department?—It is a minute of the Vice-President. It must have leaked out in a very curious way, because it only refers to two or three directors; there seems to be an extraordinary leakage in the department. I feel quite ashamed of my own department. The 20*l.* limit of power of purchase by the art director on his own initiative has nothing to do with this matter.

[Adjourned to Monday next,  
at 12 o'clock.]



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

First Commission

of the Board of Directors

1908

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

EXHIBIT 100-1000000000

Mr. John D. ...  
Mr. Thomas ...

[The following is a list of the names of the members of the Board of Directors, as given in the minutes of the Board of Directors, held on the 1st day of January, 1908.]



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 18th March 1898.*

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*Sir John Donnelly* - - - p. 1, 7  
*Mr. Thomas Armstrong, C.B.* - - p. 6

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

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ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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### 2.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Monday, 21st March 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Any Member of the Committee who desires to make any statement in the  
Questions referred by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the  
same to the Committee Clerk at least at the day of the Question.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Session of the Department, 1884.

MINUTES OF THE DEPARTMENT

James H. Smith, Secretary of the Department, was present at the meeting of the  
Department held on the 1st day of January, 1884.



*Monday, 21st March 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL IN THE CHAIR.

Sir JOHN DONNELLY, again called in ; and further Examined.

*Chairman.*

128. I AM informed by Sir John Gorst that the Treasury have given sanction for the production of the correspondence as to which we were engaged when we rose on Friday ; will you kindly put it in ?—I think you wish me to read it. The first is dated the 7th October 1897, and is a letter written by me : “ Sir,—Referring to Sir F. Mowatt’s letter of 2nd March 1897, in which the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury were pleased to sanction the extension of Mr. Weale’s services for such period, not exceeding one year from the 8th March 1897, as may elapse before the report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum, I am directed to inform you that the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have come to the conclusion that it is not necessary that his services should be any longer retained. He has, therefore, been informed that he will be retired from the 22nd instant, at the conclusion of his ordinary annual holidays. I am accordingly to transmit, for the favourable considerations of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury, the enclosed form of claim for the grant of a gratuity under the provisions of the Treasury Minute of the 30th March 1892, on behalf of Mr. Weale. I have the honour to be, &c., *J. F. D. Donnelly*.” The answer is dated 15th October, and is as follows : “ With reference to your letter of 7th instant, respecting the case of Mr. W. H. J. Weale, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury to request you to inform the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that as the date of Mr. Weale’s Civil Service certificate and the date of his first attendance for duty were both subsequent to the 15th August 1890, my Lords do not feel it in their power to grant him any gratuity under the provisions of the Treasury Minute of the 30th March 1892, which are expressly limited to the case of officers appointed before 15th August 1890 ; I am to point out, however, that Mr. Weale would appear to be qualified for a gratuity in respect of his seven completed years of service, and I am to request that in order to enable their Lordships to make the award, the necessary certificate of conduct may be added to the

0.5—2.

*Chairman—continued.*

superannuation form enclosed, and that it may be returned to this department.” That was signed by Sir F. Mowatt.

129. Will you inform the Committee what office Sir F. Mowatt holds ?—He is the Permanent Secretary of the Treasury. The next letter is one signed by myself, dated 8th November 1897 : “ Sir,—The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have had before them your letter of the 15th ult., respecting the case of Mr. W. H. J. Weale, in which it is stated that though Mr. Weale would appear to be qualified for a gratuity in respect of his service, the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury do not feel it in their power to grant one under the provisions of the Treasury Minute of 30th March 1892, which are expressly limited to the case of officers appointed before the 15th August 1890. In reply, I am directed to point out that Mr. Weale was appointed to the post of keeper by Lord Cranbrook, then Lord President of the Council, on the 21st July 1890, and that even his certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners is dated the 16th August, only one day after the date mentioned in the Treasury Minute. It appears to my Lords that it would be hard on Mr. Weale to make him suffer for the time that was required by the Civil Service Commissioners for the steps connected with the issue of his certificate. In returning the enclosed claim form, duly certified, I am therefore to express their Lordships’ hopes that, upon a re-consideration of the facts, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may see their way to sanction the award of a gratuity to Mr. Weale under the provisions of the Treasury Minute of 30th March 1892, already quoted. I have, &c. (signed) *J. F. D. Donnelly*.” The next letter is from the Treasury, signed by Mr. Hanbury, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury, and dated the 20th November 1897 : “ Sir,—In reply to your further letter of the 8th instant respecting the case of Mr. W. H. J. Weale, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty’s Treasury to request you to inform the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that my Lords regret that they cannot regard the

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appointment



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Chairman—continued.

appointment of Mr. Weale as having been complete until he had been admitted to the service with a certificate from the Civil Service Commissioners, *i.e.*, the 16th August 1890, and they therefore feel unable to award him any extra gratuity under the provisions of the Treasury Minute of 30th March 1892. With reference to the date fixed for Mr. Weale's retirement, I am to point out that, in compliance with the request of the Lords of the Committee, my Lords had sanctioned the continuance of his service for such period, not later than 8th March next, as may elapse before the Report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum. It is, of course, for the Lords of the Committee to decide as to the date on which Mr. Weale's services should be dispensed with, but having reference to the fact that the Committee, after making a first report, have recommended that they should be re-appointed, their Lordships desire me to state that they will be ready to consider favourably any recommendation of their Lordships of the Committee, for the further continuation of Mr. Weale's service if they shall think that course will be for the convenience of the Committee and of the Department of Science and Art. I am, &c. (signed) *R. W. Hanbury.*"

The reply, dated the 8th December 1897, and signed by myself, is as follows: "Sir,—The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have had under consideration Mr. Hanbury's letter of the 20th ultimo, with reference to the case of Mr. W. H. J. Weale, in which it is stated that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury will be ready to consider favourably any recommendation of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education for the further continuation of Mr. Weale's service, if they think that course will be for the convenience of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum, and of the Department of Science and Art. In reply, I am directed to point out, for the information of the Lords Commissioners, that the services of Mr. Weale were dispensed with on the 22nd October, and the Treasury, by their letter of 27th October, agreed to the issue of a certificate under Clause VII. of the Order in Council of June, 1870, to the assistant keeper, whom my Lords proposed to appoint to the vacancy. This has been issued; the staff of keepers is therefore complete. My Lords have no reason to suppose that the Committee on the South Kensington Museum will require to see Mr. Weale again, but if they should, his attendance could, no doubt, be as readily secured now that he has retired as if he continued an officer of the Department; and my Lords have no further occasion for his services." That was signed by myself. The next letter is one from the Treasury, signed by Sir Francis Mowatt, dated 17th December: "The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them the case of William Henry James Weale, keeper, 1st grade, South Kensington Museum, which was submitted on the 7th October last, and I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint you, that they have been pleased to award to the above-mentioned officer a gratuity of 375*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, which the Paymaster General has received in-

Chairman—continued.

structions to pay. I am, &c. (signed) *Francis Mowatt.*"

130. Does that complete the correspondence?—It does.

Dr. Farquharson.

131. What was Mr. Weale's salary; what relation does the gratuity bear to his salary; is it a year's salary or is it calculated in that way?—I really forget how the Treasury calculate that; if my recollection is right, I think they give a month's salary for every completed year of service. You asked me if I could give a return of visitors to the South Kensington Museum on Sunday's by the hour, and I was not quite sure whether we kept the tell-tale by the hour. I find we do, and I have a return here for the last four Sundays. February 20th and 27th, and March 6th and 13th, according to the hour of the day, from 2 to 3; 3 to 4; 4 to 5 and 5 to 6; and I propose to hand that in.

132. Will you produce the plan with the additions which we have suggested?—I have not got it yet, it is not finished, but I hope to have it here to-day some time.

Mr. Yoxall.

133. I gather that although there are verbal changes in the present minutes as compared with those of last year, the directors of art and science are still to be consulted by the director of the art museum and science museum when making purchases within certain limits?—Yes.

134. I also gathered from your evidence last week that the directors of the museums were free to purchase up to 20*l.* on their own initiative. Take the director for the art museum, for example; you told us that Mr. Armstrong's purchases were for the schools and not for the museum?—He is the director for art.

135. The director of the art museum had been free all along to purchase for the art museum up to 20*l.* without consultation?—No. In one of the blue papers I handed in at the very beginning, form 1286, date 10th November 1886, says: "The museum staff are authorised to make purchases of objects not exceeding 20*l.* in value. But the science or the art director should in all cases be consulted before any purchase is made. The intention of this article is to save reference to the Board." The only modification that has been made in that was what I read out the other day, and which is only to cover the case of where the science or the art director cannot be immediately consulted; does not happen to be in the way; and when the object would be lost if the purchase was not made at once. The new form provides that "except when the exigencies of the case render it necessary to make the purchase without such consultation, so as to prevent the loss of the object, whenever this happens the fact of the purchase having been made should be at once reported to the science or art director as the case may be." That is the only modification that has been made.

136. The original situation practically remains unchanged?—Yes.

137. The director for art, for example, if he wishes



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Foxall—continued.

wishes to purchase anything under the value of 20*l.* must in the ordinary case, except distance or time forbid, go to the director for art?—Yes, the director of the art museum must go to the director for art.

138. He has not autonomy?—He has not absolute power to buy without consulting the director for art.

139. That applies also to the science museum?—Yes.

140. You told us on Friday something about a new minute or scheme with regard to promotions in the department; you read it out?—It is a codification of the rules.

141. You said it made some slight changes?—Yes.

142. Could you specify what those slight changes are?—I am sorry I have not got the paper here. In my recollection this is the only change except some little verbal things. If you look at the blue paper I handed in, it puts against museum keepers "Appointed by Lord President, filled as a general rule by promotion from assistant keepers; but appointments may be made from outside under Clause 7 of the Order in Council, if it appears to be for the benefit of the museum." The wording now is "filled in the ordinary course of promotion," because, as the Civil Service Commissioners pointed out, these words are unnecessary; it follows, as a matter of course, that if there is nobody fit for promotion in the department with the sanction of the Treasury, Clause 7 may be applied. So that, although there is that verbal alteration, there is really practically no difference in the way of appointment or promotion in the department from what existed at the time I gave my evidence.

143. There are no more facilities for appointing experts from outside than there were before?—No.

144. And no more checks on the transference of keepers or assistant-keepers from one branch to another than there were before?—No.

Lord Balcarras.

145. Would you tell us why the alteration in the purchasing system has been made?—What alteration.

146. I confess I do not understand, not having read the evidence yet, the full bearing of the alteration which has been made with regard to the 20*l.* limit, but I should like to know why any alteration has been made?—I have just explained that it was to make the clause clear. The clause as it read seemed so drastic, that even in a case of exigency, when the museum director could not get hold of the art director to get his advice, he was unable to proceed with the purchase, even though he might lose the object by delay. It seems as if he had no power to make that purchase even under such circumstances. To prevent any misapprehension of that kind, the words which I read out have been inserted.

147. Briefly, does it increase the purchasing power of the director for art, or of the director of the art museum?—No, I should say, practically, it did not; it only allows him to make the purchase.

0.5—2.

Lord Balcarras—continued.

148. By "him," do you mean the director for art?—No, the director for the museum; he is the only person who can make purchases from the Museum Vote. It enables him to do it without the advice of the director for art when he cannot find the director for art to get his advice: that is all. Of course, that was always understood before, and acted upon; but they seemed to think that the rule might be harshly interpreted, and so I said I saw no objection to inserting those words to cover their responsibility, and I submitted it to the Vice-President, and the Vice-President immediately agreed to it.

149. There are still one or two papers that I should like to inquire about. Would you be prepared to hand in the report which was made to the India Office about the fire in the French annexe, I think in the year 1885, dealing with objects which were damaged and destroyed?—Yes, I forgot all about it; I have no doubt there was a report, and I will show it to the Vice-President, and I suppose we should ask the India Office; but, as far as I know, there is no objection to producing it. Do you mean reporting exactly what objects had been damaged and destroyed?

150. Yes, that is all. Then with regard to certain documents which could not be found last session, I wanted to ask whether the adverse report on the Molinari Gateway mentioned in 5233 has been found.—You are rather assuming that it was an adverse report. I do not know that it was an adverse report. I know nothing about it except that, as I said before, we had a record of a report having come in and having been registered, and having been sent to the Director of the Museum, then Sir Philip Owen, and I know nothing about what its purport was, or what became of it afterwards. I have not been able to trace it.

151. It has not been traced?—It has not been traced.

152. There was also a document mentioned in your answer to 8114 about one of the subordinate officers: I wish to know if that has been found?—Is it not in 8115? I said: "I recollect nothing about any report about Mr. Lehfeldt at all."

153. It is the last line of column 1 in 8114, and in the top line of column 2, "I have no copy of the minute, which I think must have been registered," and so on?—No, I have never seen the paper, and there is no record of it. It was not registered as far as my recollection goes, nor did it ever come to me.

154. It is stated to have been registered?—Who says it has been registered?

155. Mr. Weale.—My recollection is that I asked, and I said at the time there was no record.

Sir John Gorst.

156. You said, "We have nothing concerning Mr. Lehfeldt registered in 1893 excepting the Civil Service certificate, nor since, as to suitability for art library work, nor can anything *in re* be traced in the director's office?—Yes, that is the answer given by the Registry.

Lord Balcarras.

157. I see in 8327, with regard to the marks  
in



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

in examination held in, I think, 1893, you have inserted the marks gained by the candidate in German and other foreign languages.—Yes.

158. That is not what I wanted. I wanted to see the entire table of marks with the names. Have you got the marks with you to-day?—Yes, but you will see I put in exactly what was asked, “Did Mr. Wylde know German?” &c.

159. That is not my question; it is Sir Henry Howorth’s?—“Did he pass in German in the Civil Service examination?”—(A.) Yes, I believe so; and, in fact, I am pretty certain of it.” And then Lord Balcarras asks: “Have you got the marks there?”—(A.) I do not know that I have; they were all here before. I can look it up, if you like. I will add to my answer, if you will allow me, in revising my evidence, what he had in languages. I think I can state with absolute certainty that he did pass in German; in fact, he had been in Germany for some time to learn the language. On reference I find that he obtained half marks in German.”

160. I wanted to see all the marks, and would like them to be put in?—I have them here; this is a table showing the results.

161. Please put it in?—I do not know that I have a right to put it in. It is a Civil Service paper, the results of the examination, which is sent, I forget whether to the Department, but at all events, it is sent to the candidate, and which gives the names of the successful candidates, and then the next ones who were not successful. If it is published, it is all right; I do not know whether it is published in a Report or not, but I can give you the marks from this. I looked here, and I found the statement was correct, and I will give you the total in each subject, and the amount he got out of it.

162. I do not want that; I want all the marks?—Do you want the marks of all the other candidates?

163. Yes, please; how many are there altogether?—Six candidates altogether. This question was asked *à propos* of his being employed in the Library, and it was said we sent somebody there who did not know German or French, and it was in answer to that that the Vice-President asked me if Mr. Wylde knew German. I will give you the marks in each of the subjects if you like.

164. I see in question 2041 you have added a note about M. Vachon’s mission, and it says there that the Government of France gave that gentleman six million francs, or 240,000*l.*, for his mission. Is that a misprint?—I cannot tell you at this length of time. I quoted then from a paper, it may be a misprint; I will look it up again. “I have since received through the Embassy in Paris a copy of the Decree of 1889, appointing a commissioner.” I have no doubt I have got that decree.

164\*. Here is this statement that a gentleman for an educational mission received a sum of something like 240,000*l.* It seems to me impossible?—I think so, certainly.

165. It would be more convenient if these additions could be made verbally?—I was asked to do it. I have taken care not to add a word to my evidence except what I was directed to add; I was told to add that, or otherwise I should not have got that from France.

Lord Balcarras—continued.

166. Would you, therefore, tell us about that the next time you come here?—Yes, I will make a note of it; I have no doubt it is a mistake.

167. I understand that Colonel Plunket has recently issued an admirable little guide to his museum in Dublin; I think it would be of interest to the committee if you would procure one or two copies of that guide and hand it round. I do not mean as an Appendix, but for us to see. Would you do that?—Yes.

168. With regard to the red octavo sixpenny guide which was handed round last session, who does that book belong to?—I really forget at this minute; it was originally prepared by Mr. Cundall, not the one who is in the museum; but who it belongs to now I really do not know.

169. This guide, which is sold officially, apparently, and has on it the words “published by authority,” is a private venture?—I do not exactly know what you mean by published officially; when it was brought out the then heads of the department authorised its being sold and its being published as under the authority of the Committee of Council, just as the hand-books are.

170. It is a private venture, substantially?—Yes, just like the hand-books are to some extent a private venture.

171. You have no guide of your own?—Yes, there are the small guides.

172. A little sheet of paper?—Yes.

173. It is more a map than a guide. May anybody now make guides?—Certainly.

174. And sell them at your museum?—I suppose anybody may make a guide to any museum, and if it was a reasonably decent one, I have no doubt authority would be given for its being sold at the bookstall, as we do to a number of private publications, photographs, and so on.

175. And with the *imprimatur* “published or sold by authority” as there is on the red guide?—That would depend on the Lord President or Vice-President whether they gave that authority; I should not give it on my own account.

176. You would, perhaps, let us know to whom this guide belongs?—Yes.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

177. Who receives the proceeds of the sale?—Like the photographs and various things sold at the bookstall; there are a certain number of books that it is believed would be of use for the public frequenting the museum to purchase there, and they are sold there, just like the proceeds of the hand-books which go to Chapman and Hall.

Dr. Farquharson.

178. Is it entirely a private venture, or do the private people get any subvention from the department to help them?—In the case of the hand-books they get a subvention; they get the manuscript, but in this case, as far as my recollection goes, they get nothing at all; it is a purely private venture.

Lord Balcarras.

179. No money passes from the department for the compilation of this guide?—Not that I know of; I am pretty certain nothing did; it began



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

began long before I had anything to do with it, and I do not remember the early history. At all events there is no subvention now.

180. With regard to the catalogue of the Piot Collection, it appeared in the newspapers, I think, before Christmas, that Mr. Mollet said he had made a catalogue of this collection.

181. Is that the case?—I do not know.

182. Perhaps you would inquire?—Yes.

183. With regard to the map you showed us two or three days ago, it appeared that the temporary tin and wood building which used to be in your quadrangle has now been removed to the west side of Exhibition-road?—Yes.

184. What is in that building now?—It is going to be used, or is being used, for examination purposes. The stores will there receive and issue and so on all the objects sent up for the national art competition, and which are turned out and arranged in the adjacent building, and the personal examination of candidates in May and June will take place in that building.

Chairman.

185. Are the specimens to be packed and unpacked there?—The objects sent up from the schools of art, all the drawings and things, will be packed and unpacked there.

Lord *Balcarres*.

186. It is not used for exhibition?—No, it is not being practically used at all yet, and it will not be used, as far as I know, for exhibition.

187. Is it the case that an oil painting belonging to Mr. Cousins of a subject from the Tragedy of Macbeth, painted by Maclise, has recently been injured while on loan at Bethnal Green?—Yes, a picture, but I cannot tell what; a picture lent to Bethnal Green was injured.

188. Is it the case that a tear as long as three inches was made in that picture?—I do not know the length of the tear; I know it was accidentally torn, and I know I signed a letter to him asking if we should repair it, and when I asked about it I was told that it was fortunately an injury in a part of the picture which really did not injure the picture at all, and could easily be put right. There was, no doubt, an unfortunate tear.

189. How did it happen?—I forget; I think it was being taken down or moved, or something of the kind, and caught against a nail which ripped it. I will get the whole report; if I had known I would have looked it up, but I did not know you were to ask the question.

190. Is it the case that within a short period from now a Jade Cup, which has been sent on loan to Bethnal Green by a member of this House, has been broken?—Yes.

191. Will compensation be paid in either of these cases?—Not that I know of. As to the picture it is really not damaged; there will be compensation to that extent that we have offered to re-line the picture; accidents of that kind in handling thousands of objects throughout the year, constantly moving them, must happen.

192. Am I correct in supposing that there is a precedent for compensation being given for objects either lost or injured. In the case of a gentleman called Mr. Adams, who in the year

0.5—2.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

1858 suffered a loss of a gold watch, for the loss of which a certain Private Winchester, of the Royal Engineers, was charged?—A gold watch? Where was it? It was not exhibited in the museum.

193. On loan, I understand?—The only thing that I can call to mind that has the least approach to likeness to that, was a watch that belonged to, or was certainly exhibited by, the Patent Commissioners in the Patent Museum, the Patent Museum being then under them, which was stolen. Whether he got any compensation from the Patent Commissioners or not I really do not know, and I never heard of a Private Winchester having had anything to do with it, or being suspected of having had anything to do with it. I know some people were kind enough to say that the Sappers who were there had stolen the watch, but I am perfectly certain that it was never brought home to any soldier, and the Sappers said the Police had as much to do with it, and looked after the place as much as they did.

194. You remember something about the loss of this watch; will you be good enough to make further inquiry into the question, so far as it involves compensation?—If it is the same thing I speak of, my only knowledge of the thing was, that just at that time I was put in charge of the detachment of Engineers at South Kensington, and at that time the Patent Museum was entirely in the charge and belonged to the Commissioners of Patents. The Science and Art Department had nothing to do with it, except that it was in a building guarded and watched by the Police of South Kensington Museum. There was a separate entrance and everything else.

Chairman.

195. You had no control of the Patent Museum at that time?—Not a bit; they had a separate entrance. I know nothing about any compensation having been given to anybody for any watch that was stolen. The only time I remember anybody having got any compensation for anything injured or destroyed in the museum was in the case, the Vice-President will remember, of a bust belonging to a student sent up to the national competition, and which was stolen, and we applied for special compensation; as this was a student who had sent it up from the schools, and it was of value to him, we got the sanction of the Treasury to give that student compensation for the loss to him of the bust. That is the only time I have heard of compensation being given for anything damaged or destroyed.

Mr. *Bartley*.

196. Is it not in evidence that it is expressly arranged that they shall have no claim for compensation for things that are lent?—Certainly; all people lending lend at their own risk, and they are distinctly informed that we are not liable for any damage.

Lord *Balcarres*.

197. You have apparently relaxed that rule entirely within the last few years in the case of this bust?—No, that was not a loan; it was work sent up by a student to the national competition. For instance, sending in your examination

E

paper



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarras*—continued.

paper would not be called a loan ordinarily; this is simply another form of examination paper.

198. I want to ask you some questions with regard to the estimates of expenditure about which I understand you are going to hand in a statement. I wish to ask about the Stores Department; have you a copy of the estimates there?—Yes, I have the estimates for the current financial year 1897–98, and also for 1898–99.

199. Look at the Stores Department for 1898–99. I see that under H (1), the salaries of the Stores Department amount to 2,759l. ?—The stores branch for the estimates now on the table of the House amount for 1898–99 to 2,759l. as against 2,763l. for the current year.

200. I merely wish to check the figures that I read out. In H (2) is there a grant of 1,700l. for copying?—Yes.

201. H (3), for attendants, 4,840l. ?—Yes. Well, it is more than attendants; these are principally packers for the stores.

202. In H 9, distribution, van service, &c., 3,950l. ?—Yes.

203. Is there also an extra, or rather, a separate item for stores for the Royal College of Science of 100l. ?—Yes; those two are separate things.

204. In F 4 is there an item of 900l. for carriage, materials for packing, mounting and repairs?—Yes.

205. That would amount, I suppose, in all, to a little over 14,200l. ?—Yes; I have not added it up.

206. Would it not be a convenience if the department, or rather, the branch of the museum spending so considerable a grant, could have the luxury of a separate item in the estimates, so that it should not be scattered over half-a-dozen different items?—I do not see what luxury it would be to the stores, and I am sure it would not be of any use for the purpose of reference.

207. It would be of no use, you think?—No, because you are mixing up a great number of things that are perfectly distinct. For instance, as to purchases for museum, the carriage, materials for packing come under the museum, and is a distinct museum vote, whereas a great deal of the stores, taken as separate stores here, have to do with the schools, and have to do with Edinburgh Museum and Dublin Museum, and are perfectly distinct. Therefore, to mix them up would not give proper information. If they were all put together, the next day some one would ask a question why they were not kept separate, because they wanted to know how much belonged to the museum, and how much to the schools.

208. I gather that you are opposed to any alteration?—Yes. This form of estimate was settled with the Treasury, and I think it gives as much information as can be given of a very complex piece of work.

209. Could you tell me, you have the materials by you, why, under H 9, Carriage and Van Service, in the Estimates for 1898–99, there is an increase, it seems to me, of a very considerable sum, of 600l. ?—I believe it was for the purchase of additional vans for circulation.

210. Do you anticipate a great extension of

Lord *Balcarras*—continued.

circulation?—If I had known, I would have had the estimate notes down, which would have given further information. In my recollection, I am speaking only from recollection, two or three of the vans have got past use, and we have replaced them. We have special vans to carry these objects.

Chairman.

211. We have it in evidence how many vans you have?—Yes, and vans will not last for ever, and they require replacing, and my idea is that the increase was for the new vans.

Lord *Balcarras*.

212. The substitution of new for old?—Yes. Perhaps the most convincing answer I could give is this: that we have had sufficiently good reason to induce the Treasury to consent to the increase, and we had to explain every item fully.

213. Perhaps you would make a note of that for me?—Why, we have increased the van service!

214. I thought you were not sure about it?—Do you wish me to make a note to answer the question why we have increased the amount for the van service?

215. I have misunderstood you; I thought you meant that you were not sure that it was for this purpose that the 600l. had been increased?—Quite so. Do you wish me to make a note to explain on another occasion why the van service was increased?

216. Yes, as to the increase of the 600l. Another branch of the Stores Department contains this item "Superintendence of examples, publications, photographs, &c., 100l. per annum;" what does superintendence of photographs mean?—I do not remember at this minute.

217. I give you notice?—I have made a note of it.

218. Will you tell me, if I ask you a question, as to which you require notice, and it shall be deferred. It was stated in the newspaper, "Truth," before Christmas, that in 1890 there were two temporary clerical assistants in the department, that in 1891 there were 30, and that in 1897 there were 120?—I should think it very likely; whether the numbers are right or not I do not know. If the only point of the question is that there has been a very large increase in the number, certainly.

219. That increase I have mentioned?—I dare say quite as big. I do not know whether it is worth while explaining, formerly we had Civil Service writers provided by the Civil Service Commission, and these have been gradually done away with, and at the present time that means of obtaining writers is stopped.

Chairman.

220. In connection with the Playfair Commission?—It is stopped, and when we want writers we have to get them in the market, and these are the clerks that have been referred to, and as the work of the department has increased, and as the writers have died out and can no longer be obtained, we have got these temporary clerks.

221. But



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*.

221. But it is work of a temporary character?—Yes, it is very temporary, because during the examinations period, just before and after the examinations, we have to have a very large number of temporary clerical assistants, and as soon as that is over, they are sent away. What was the number that was given in the publication you have mentioned?

222. In 1890 two, and in 1891, 30?—These are not in the museum; these are in the department. I think the number in the museum is very small. You will see "Copying for the Museum" under H (2) is 200*l.*, and that would provide for two men; that is all. So that all this number is for the department, quite outside the museum.

223. Does the heading, "copying," include boy clerks?—Yes.

224. £200 for the museum?—Yes.

225. Is that the same as temporary clerical assistants?—Yes; that is the only Vote under which we can get temporary clerical assistance.

226. With regard to the payment of the accounts, you stated the last day we were here that the Auditor General had made certain representations to you on your October accounts with regard to the payment of salary to one of your officials?—Yes.

227. Are your museum accounts paid quarterly?—No, monthly. We render monthly accounts, and all salaries except the daily ones are paid monthly.

228. On departments, say the art museum, are the accounts paid quarterly or monthly?—What accounts do you refer to?

229. We will say the accounts of the art museum or the art library purchases, and so on?—Certain tradesmen's bills are sent in quarterly; but all the salaries and all those accounts are paid monthly, and we render monthly accounts to the Audit Office.

230. The tradesmen's accounts proper are, as a rule, paid quarterly?—Some of them; some of the larger ones; the others come into the monthly account. There is an absolute monthly account rendered which contains the greater part of the department's expenditure; but over and above that there are a few tradesmen who send in their accounts quarterly, and those come into the monthly account at the end of the quarter.

231. Let me put it in a concrete way; is there a quarterly account sent to the office from the art museum, of tradesmen's accounts, and so on?—No; the clerk of accounts has all the accounts, and the museum when it gets a bill of any kind, certifies it and sends it to the clerk of accounts. It does not render any quarterly account separate from that, they send in the bill whenever it is certified; but, as I said before, there are certain tradesmen who have quarterly accounts, and they only send in their accounts quarterly.

232. And on that, I ask whether the keeper either of the art museum or of the art library was in the practice of sending in what you may call a quarterly account?—He sends in that account when he receives it, and therefore, I suppose, you may call that a quarterly account.

0.5—2.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

233. With regard to that, are these quarterly accounts paid up to date?—I do not really know how you mean; as soon as they are checked and found to be correct the clerk of accounts pays them.

234. Do you understand my question?—No, I do not. I say they are paid as soon as they are ready for payment; as soon as they have been checked and certified by the certifying officer they go to the clerk of accounts, and he draws an order which either the assistant secretary or I, or somebody else, signs.

235. That is to say that neither in the case of the art library nor the art museum, are these quarterly tradesmen's accounts in arrears?—They may be in arrear in this sense, that they may have sent in an account which is not correct, and that may be under correction, but we cannot hold over accounts if that is what you mean; the Audit Office would stop us in a minute if we held over accounts.

236. The accounts are never held over, either in the library or in the museum, in the case of the accounts being accurate, that is, not returned to the tradesmen for correction?—No. It is so difficult to explain with regard to holding over. An account finishing this quarter is not paid till next quarter; we pay four quarters in the year, and in the end quarter we cannot pay up on the 31st March unless we sit up all night, and it goes into the next quarter, but there are four quarterly accounts which come into the year.

237. There has been no year in which only three quarterly accounts have been paid.—Not that I know of; there must have been some reason for it, or the Audit Office would at once question it if I purposely kept over an account which was due this year, and tried to put it over to the next year.

238. I want to ask you a further question which arises on the annual report, as well as from the estimates. Is it the case that in your annual report you deal with the history of the department from New Year's day to New Year's eve; from January to December?—Well, yes. Sometimes we put in some things that have happened after the 1st January in the next year, but, roughly speaking, the report is supposed to be for the year. For instance, I have in my hand, the 44th report of the Science and Art Department, and that is the report for the year 1896.

239. The report deals with the calendar year, does it not?—Yes.

240. And the estimates and appropriation accounts are of course the financial report?—The appropriation account is the financial account.

241. They deal with the year from the 31st March to the following 31st March?—Yes.

242. That is to say, the financial year of the department and the report year of the department do not coincide?—No, I think you may say all reports are for the calendar year.

243. In purchasing departments, would it not be a convenience that the two years should correspond?—I do not know that it would, for instance as to the report for this last year, it takes some time to bring out; we try to bring it out as soon as possible; if we had to carry on the



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

the report to the 31st of this month we certainly should not bring it out till August, whereas now I hope we will get the annual report in a month or six weeks. We always bring out the annual report before Parliament is up, and generally before the estimates.

244. How many years is it since that annual report has been issued before July?—I do not know before July, but the House is never up in July.

245. Is it anticipated that this year we shall have the report in a month or six weeks?—No. Take it in this way: if we can only bring out the report for the year ending 1st January by the middle of July, if the year ended on the 1st April we should not be able to bring out that report until September or October; as it is, Parliament does get the report, as a rule, before it rises, and generally before the estimates come on.

246. It was August, almost, last year before we got it?—And it was August before the estimates came on; I remember that, although I do not remember the date of the report coming out. I see the report was signed on the 27th July 1897; it was all in the press then, and I suppose that was a few days before it was issued.

247. And Parliament rose on 6th August?—I do not remember.

248. I will illustrate by asking this question, which will of course require consideration on your part; with regard to this lack of coincidence between the two reports, I wish to ask you now about the water colour collection. You have a vote, F (6), for the historical collection of oil and water colours. I see in the five years between 1892-93 and 1896-97, the sum of 4,600*l.* was voted by Parliament; now it is impossible in the report to find out how that money was spent, because the two years do not correspond, but in your annual report you have a heading of "Water-colour and other drawings, &c." and in the corresponding five years to those which I have read I see that the sum of 8,256*l.* has been administered?—All that is spent is entered every year in the Appropriation Account, under its head; if you have the Appropriation Account you will see every penny that is spent. The report is not the place to go to for the expenditure, it is the Appropriation Account.

249. I now show you the Appropriation Account for 1895-96?—Here is the exact expenditure. Historical collection of water colours, 1,000*l.*; expenditure, 1,021*l.* 12*s.*; more than granted, 21*l.* 12*s.*

250. Will you explain to me why, in the Appropriation Accounts, under the five headings 1892-93 to 1896-97, inclusive, the difference between the amount spent and the amount granted is small, whereas the difference between the 4,600*l.* voted by Parliament and the 8,256*l.* accounted for in your annual report is considerable?—I do not know that it is so, unless I went through these annual reports. There is no doubt that the annual report will not give you the expenditure for the year, because it is a different year, and we might have bought the whole lot of pictures for one year at the end of the year, between one annual report and the estimates. But the only place where you can get the absolute facts as to expenditure is in the Appropria-

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

tion Account. I do not know where you get the figures.

Mr. *Bartley*.

251. That all goes before the Public Accounts Committee and the Auditor General?—Yes, and they comment upon it, and if there is anything irregular it goes before the Public Accounts Committee.

252. And you can only get free from any irregularity by their whitewashing?—That is all.

*Chairman*.

253. Have you ever had any occasion to apply to be whitewashed?—No.

Lord *Balcarres*.

254. I wish to understand the account which is settled by the Public Accounts Committee; in every annual report of the South Kensington Museum there is an extensive appendix, and also two tables, one an abstract of objects acquired during the year, and the second an abstract of objects acquired during the year, and from the beginning of the museum up to date?—Yes.

255. In this report before me I have "Abstract of objects acquired during the year ending the 31st December 1896"; it comes under Sub-head 18 B; the words "Water-colour and other drawings, &c." Between the 31st December 1895 and the 31st December 1896 you spent 2,240*l.* on water-colour and other drawings, &c.; in the estimates, even making allowance for the non-coincidence of reports, there is nothing approaching that sum of 2,240*l.* in the grant to justify so large an expenditure; and in no single one of the five years?—Are you taking the estimates, because you may have a sum in the estimates which may not be spent.

256. Quite so; but if you have invariably more spent than you have in the estimates?—We invariably have spent more than there is in the estimates. I should like to know how to be able to do that. These accounts have been gone over with the most absolute care. I do not know that any explanation that I can give to the Committee can be as good as the Comptroller and Auditor General's checking.

257. Let me amplify what I wish you to explain in your memorandum. From the 31st December 1891 (I am quoting from the annual report of the department) to 31st December 1892, on "Water-colour and other drawings, &c.," you spent 1,995*l.*; in the following year on the same objects, 765*l.*; in the following year, December 1894, 1,861*l.*; December 1894-95, 1,395*l.*; December 1895 to December 1896, 2,240*l.*, total 8,256*l.* In the estimates beginning in March and ending in March 1892-93, F. 6, "Historical collection of oil and water colours," the grant was 900*l.*; in 1893-94, 1,000*l.*; in 1894-95, 1,000*l.*; in 1895-96, 1,000*l.*; in 1896-97, 700*l.*, total 4,600*l.* I find nothing either in the report of the department or in the Appropriation Accounts to explain this apparent divergence. I notice that there is also, in the annual reports of the department, an item of money for expenditure on oil paintings. Will you please take that as notice?—What about the oil paintings?

258. In that abstract, No. 4 or No. 5, there is also



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

also an item for money spent on oil paintings for South Kensington?—That is up to December 31st 1895; none made in that year.

259. None in that particular year, but in other years there had been considerable sums spent on oil paintings, besides on the historical collection of oil and water colour paintings?—What is the distinction? The historical collection may be oil paintings as well.

260. I suppose so; but the point is that it is not only in these figures that I have read out, and these sums that I have read out, that expenditure upon pictures must be sought, there is also another vote apparently, because there is another sub-head, namely the sub-head dealing with oil paintings?—I do not quite follow that; you are quoting from the abstract of the cost of objects. I will try and look at it.

261. I wish to ask you a question also dealing with the relation between your report of administration and your report of finance?—What report of finance?

262. The Appropriation Account?—That is not my report; that is the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

263. The report of your finance?—Yes.

264. You remember questions were asked as to the purchase of Sir Edward Burne-Jones's picture, Merlin and Nimue. In the Appropriation Account for the year ending 31st March 1897, it is stated that at F. 6 your grant was 700*l.*?—Yes.

265. You spent 800*l.*?—Yes.

266. And that excess was sanctioned by the Treasury?—Yes; and passed by the public accounts committee.

267. In the 44th Annual Report for the year 1896 the purchase of this picture is included in the year 1896, although it did not take place in the year 1896?—Where is that?

268. I am not quite sure about the reference, but I think it is page 46 of the Roman figures in the report?—"After the beginning of the new financial year, in April, an opportunity for obtaining a very important early work of Sir Edward Burne-Jones was presented." Is that the reference?

269. Yes; I want to know if you can tell me, although I am afraid it may not be germane to your office, why in the Appropriation Account, which only has its business to deal with the year between the 31st March and the succeeding 31st March, they should deal with two financial years?—Who?

270. The Appropriation Account?—No.

271. Have not they dealt with two of your financial years in one report?—Not that I know of. How could they? That is the Appropriation Account of one year.

272. And it does not deal with the other of these items, the Newtons, and so on, that we see on this same page?—I do not understand. The Appropriation Account is for one year, and covers the estimates of that year, and never, to my knowledge, covers two years. It would depend on which Appropriation Account one of these purchases came under; it would depend on the year in which it was made.

273. Then I understand there was no picture bought in the year except this one, for which the excess was granted by the Treasury?—I should think not.

0.5—2.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

274. That is the only one mentioned in the Appropriation Account?—Yes. I am not quite certain, because I have not got the Appropriation Account before me.

275. So far as I remember, nothing else is mentioned. I wish to ask you some questions about furniture. You have a vote under H. 5 for furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition?—Yes.

276. I find you also have a Vote H. 6, chiefly wages for artisans, and I think General Festing told us that carpenters were included for many purposes, but also in connection with the exhibition of objects, &c.?—Well, the whole heading is this: "Wages in connection with the Exhibition of Objects, Repair, Heating, Lighting, Cleaning, and Ventilation of the buildings at South Kensington and Bethnal Green, Precautions against Fire, and the Maintenance of Grounds." Those are all the subjects that are included in the heading for artisans, cleaners, labourers, &c.

277. But some of them, no doubt a comparatively small proportion, are engaged in connection with the exhibition of objects, &c.; I presume that means, as I think we had in evidence from General Festing, that carpenters and artisans of that character are paid for out of H. 6?—Yes; for instance, putting in the fittings and cases, and putting up the objects for exhibition.

278. I see that during the last 10 years (that is to say, between 1888–89 and 1897–98, inclusive) this Vote H. 6 has amounted to upwards of 132,000*l.*; under H. 5, the preceding vote?—Are you putting that to me as a question? I have not added it up.

279. I did not put it as a question, and I do not ask you to take it from me; but as I am about to found my question on it, perhaps you must consult your feelings as to whether it is worth while to check my belief that in ten years 132,000*l.* has been spent upon this Vote H. 6; in the preceding Vote H. 5, furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition, the separate departments of the Science and Art Department receive separate grants for the purchase of furniture. In ten years, from 1888–89 to 1897–98, I see that Bethnal Green Museum has received no less a sum than 6,680*l.* for furniture, materials, &c. You will remember that Mr. Clarke or Mr. Armstrong told us in evidence that during the admirable loan exhibitions that they organised for Bethnal Green, they lent cases from South Kensington, showing that this big grant, which varies from 500*l.* to 1,100*l.* a year, is not sufficient to supply Bethnal Green with the materials and cases it requires?—I do not think it shows that; it shows that they had not the cases for this specific exhibition, but the amount taken is enough for the ordinary purposes of Bethnal Green Museum.

280. I wish to know what this 6,680*l.* has been spent on in the way of cases?—Cases and fitting up, there is constant work being done, and if you want to go into the details of that you had better ask Mr. Clarke and General Festing. I do not really know the details of it.

281. Of course I am not asking you this question now, it would be a most improper thing

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to



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

to do, and you cannot possibly carry the estimates for ten years for Bethnal Green in your head, but I wish to know, in your return which you are going to give us, the items which compose the 6,680*l.* worth of furniture, materials, &c., for Bethnal Green, which entirely excludes the making of those objects, because that is paid for out of Vote H. 6?—This is quite a new return; the Chairman of the Committee gave me the form of return, and the clerk of accounts is preparing the expenditure in that form of return, but this is the first I have heard of preparing a return, as I understand, to separate the amount that we have spent in the last ten years under the sub-head of furniture, materials, and fitting up objects, and to separate that as to the amount spent in cases and the amount spent in fitting up objects. Is that what you require?

282. I do not know anything about the return. I was not consulted about the return. I was merely told by the Chairman that the Secretary was to hand us in a memorandum?—

Chairman.

283. What I said was, that I found the information given in all the papers I could find was not sufficient to instruct us as to the different items of expenditure, and I asked the witness if he could give us such information as would enable us the better to respond to instructions given to us that we should report on the cost?—As I understood Lord Balcarras, he assumed that that return would include this information, or at all events, that he wished it to include that information. I only wanted to make it quite clear that the return I had in hand was quite a different thing altogether.

284. The return which I desired to have on behalf of the Committee was a return for a year, not ten years?—

Lord Balcarras.

285. I wish to ask the witness to give us quite a different thing, viz.: the items composing the 6,680*l.* worth of furniture, materials, &c., in H. 5, and the wages paid on making those furniture, materials, &c. up, which are paid out of H. 6?—It is quite impossible to make up that return, in my opinion. You have so many carpenters employed in fitting up these objects, so many days there, but how you can earmark the work for one thing or the other I do not know at present.

286. I wish to ask you whether, with the materials now at your command, you are able to answer me the question, without notice, as to the items which compose the 6,680*l.*, which have been voted in the estimates in H. 5, for furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition at Bethnal Green Museum.

287. Can you, without notice, furnish me with a statement of the amount of money spent on making up that furniture, &c., during the 10 years, 1888–89 to 1897–98, which amounts to 132,000*l.*; can you tell me, without notice, how much of that was spent at Bethnal Green?—No.

288. Are you aware that, in addition to these sums on furniture, &c., and artisans' work, the Office of Works, in Vote 5 or Vote 6 K., spent

Lord Balcarras—continued.

from 400*l.* to 500*l.* a year on the maintenance and repair of Bethnal Green Museum?—Yes; I have not got the Estimates, but I daresay that is so, on the repairs; that has nothing to do with furniture or fittings.

289. The maintenance and repairs?—Yes; that is perfectly distinct from furniture and fittings.

290. Can you tell me why it is that it should be necessary to ask these questions in view of the fact that the Appropriation Accounts do not help us in the least; that is to say, that in the Appropriation Account it is impossible under H. 5 to tell whether the 800*l.*, or 500*l.*, or 1,100*l.* has or has not been spent?—Oh, yes; the Appropriation Account will show exactly how much of H. 5 or H. 6 is spent.

291. In the year 1896–97, 1,100*l.* was voted for furniture, materials, &c., at Bethnal Green?—No, it was not; it is accounted for in H. 5, but it is not accounted for in each sub-division of H. 5.

292. I wish to know why it is impossible for me to tell how much of that 1,100*l.* was spent on furniture at Bethnal Green?—Because it is not accounted for under the separate items. The estimate is accounted for under sub-heads, not under items of sub-heads. If I may make it quite clear, you have the services common to general administration: H. 5, furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition; then for the purchases and general information there are the items given of general administration at South Kensington, and so on, but vote is accounted for under H. 5, as a whole, and always has been. It is so in all cases in the estimates, that they are accounted for under the sub-head.

293. Can you tell me who keeps the accounts, H. 5?—I am the accounting officer.

294. Who adds up the sums?—The clerk of accounts and his staff, but I am responsible.

295. Is any person in particular responsible for H. 5 or H. 6?—No, not in the accounts division.

296. What is the name of the man who keeps those accounts?—Mr. Bowler is the clerk of accounts.

297. I mean the man who keeps the day-books, the ledger, and so on?—I really do not know; there is a clerk in charge of accounts, and an assistant clerk in charge of accounts, and then there are one or two or three clerks of the second division and one or two writers; I forget at this minute what the numbers are.

298. Is there one of the Royal Engineers employed on this branch of the accounts?—No, there is no engineer in the accountant's office.

299. Did you receive a communication from the clerk as to my proposal to ask you about the catalogue of photographs?—Yes.

300. Have you got the necessary information before you?—What is the point; I have the question that was asked and the answer that was given.

301. Have you the salaries and so forth?—There were two questions about photographs; the one was as to an item that was left; I forget how it was described in Mr. Marshall's catalogue, and the other was a catalogue of photographs.

302. That is the point; the catalogue of photographs?—£. 274 was spent in arranging, classifying, and cataloguing and describing those photographs on Mr. Pollen and his staff, and the indexing and cross references with regard to these



21 March 1898.]

Sir J. DONNELLY.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

these necessitated the writing of about 10,000 slips. That did not represent all the work, because there was a good deal of arranging to be done as well; 472 descriptive slips were written of photographs of North Italian paintings, and the payment made for those was 7*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

303. What were the salaries paid to these people, to Mr. Pollen and his company?—They were paid by the day; I forget exactly how much Mr. Pollen got.

304. Have you not got the figures there, as, if not, I will postpone it?—I have got the amount paid to each; Mr. Pollen to the 31st of March was paid 59*l.* 17*s.*, Mr. Laskey was paid 63*l.*, and Mr. Sketchley 57*l.*

305. I do not want the respective totals, I want the daily fees?—I do not at this minute remember what the scale was at which they were paid.

306. I will postpone it if you will be prepared with full particulars as to expenses and numbers done, and so forth, on the next occasion?—Yes.

Mr. *Humphreys Owen*.

307. I should like to know whether you could put in a paper showing, by way of a chart, the hierarchy of your office, the Lord President at the top, the Vice President, and the Secretary, and so on.

Mr. *Bartley*.

308. Could you let us have some sort of statement as to what an ideal staff should be, according to your view?—I have discussed the matter, but I have not got it with me; I have discussed it at various times, with the two directors, and I should be very glad to put in a statement.

*Chairman*.

309. I take it you will put that in?—Yes.

310. Could you bring it on Friday?—I will try and get it out by Friday.

Mr. *Humphreys Owen*.

311. This blue paper does not give to me at the first glance exactly what I want, which is the

Mr. *Humphreys Owen*—continued.

steps of the ladder, so that one could see at a glance to whom each officer in his turn is responsible, beginning with the lowest clerks and then going up by degrees to the directors and the secretary, something of the form followed in a pedigree?—The assistant keepers and junior assistants are responsible to the keepers, the keepers are responsible to the directors, and the directors are responsible to my Lords, through me, as the permanent head of the department.

312. Would it give very much trouble to the office to put that in a graphic form?—There are only the three stages; I do not know that I could give anything more.

313. Perhaps your answer will enable me to do it for myself?—Do you wish it for all of them; that I should put out all of the names?

314. No, not the names, only all different grades of officers. The first bifurcation is into the science side and the art side?—Would this give it to you? For the science museum there is the director, the keeper in charge of the division of machinery, inventions, and naval models, and the keeper in charge of the science library and the collections of scientific apparatus. Below them are two assistant keepers and two junior assistants. Then for the art museum there is the director, the assistant director in charge of the art collections under the immediate supervision of the assistant director, one keeper in charge of the art library, the keeper in charge of the circulation department, the keeper in charge of the Indian section, the keeper in charge of the museum publications, Dyce and Foster libraries, &c., and five assistant keepers, and five junior assistants; five in the art collections, four in the library, one in the circulation, and there is at present one vacancy. Then for the Bethnal Green Museum there is one assistant keeper, a resident officer, and one junior assistant.

[Adjourned to Friday next,  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Monday, 21st March 1898.*

*Sir John Donnelly.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

3.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

*Friday, 25th March 1898.*

[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]



*Friday, 25th March 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Major-General Sir JOHN DONNELLY, K.C.B., again called in ; and further Examined.

Lord Balcarras.

315. I SEE in Appendix, No. 2, which you have handed in, that the Treasury refers to a letter of the Science and Art Department, dated the 19th February 1897 ; would you be so good as to hand that letter in ?—I thought I had handed it in.

316. I cannot find it ?—That was the letter asking that his period of service might be extended, and I thought I read it or handed it in on the first day ; I do not seem to have it here, but I will telephone for it immediately.

317. This letter I understand, from the Treasury answer to it, contained a recommendation or application on behalf of Mr. Weale ; whose recommendation was it ?—It did not contain a recommendation on behalf of Mr. Weale ; it was my Lords applied to the Treasury to have his services extended, and gave the reason for it, and, as I understand, the Vice-President considers it better to have the letter down instead of my giving my recollection of it.

318. I only wanted to know the identity of these documents ; it gave the reasons : I understood from your evidence last Session that you had no direct communication with the keepers of the museum, but that they all went through the immediately superior officer of the keepers, namely the director ?—I do not remember ever having made that statement. That I had no direct communication ? On the contrary I stated I had often talked to keepers, and I mentioned that I had a conversation with Mr. Weale himself.

319. I am talking of documents. Do your orders go direct to Mr. Skinner or Mr. Last, or do they go through the directors of the respective museums ?—As a rule through the directors, but I think cases may often occur where I send a note or a memorandum to a keeper or to a director.

320. I see in Question 44, the Treasury letter authorising the continuance of Mr. Weale's services is dated 2nd. March ; is that the original letter on the subject ?—No, I think there was a change made ; one letter was substituted for another, but this is the official letter which is now recorded.

Lord Balcarras—continued.

321. Are these the original terms in this letter in Appendix 2, of the extension of Mr. Weale's services ?—They are the terms of the official letter.

322. I said the original terms ?—No. The one letter was substituted for another, the first one being sent back to the Treasury. When a letter is substituted, it is almost always sent back, and I believe this was.

Chairman.

323. Why was it sent back ?—They sent a letter in substitution for the previous letter.

Mr. Woodall.

324. The first letter was recalled by the Treasury ?—Yes.

Lord Balcarras.

325. It was recalled by the Treasury, not by the Science and Art Department ?—No, not as far as my recollection goes.

326. Have you now got the letter written on the 19th February 1897, sent by you to the Secretary of the Treasury ?—Yes, and it is as follows : "Sir, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to inform the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education are of opinion that the services of Mr. Weale, one of the keepers of the South Kensington Museum in charge of the art library, who would under the 65 years of age rule be retired on the 8th March next, should be retained until after the Committee of the House of Commons which it is proposed to appoint on the South Kensington Museum has reported. My Lords also request that the consideration of his further retention may be reserved till then. I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently, J. F. D. Donnelly."

327. That does not include the certificate of Mr. Weale's character. Was that sent as an enclosure in that letter ?—No, there is no enclosure, that is the complete thing.

328. When it is under the 4th Clause with regard to the 65 years rule, you do not send the certificate



25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

certificate of character?—No, I have never known of anything being done, except a letter like that being written.

329. This letter just handed in gave rise to, or was the result of certain correspondence between yourself and the Treasury?—No, that was the first application to the Treasury.

330. It is dated 19th February 1897; that is the first application, and upon that, we understand that certain correspondence took place; we have it from you, in fact, that this minute is a revised minute?—I do not know what minute you refer to.

331. This letter is a revised letter?—Which letter? The one I have handed in is the original letter.

332. The letter of the 2nd March, in Question 44, is a revised letter?—I do not know that I would be right in calling it a revised letter; the Treasury wrote a letter, and for certain reasons they withdrew that letter, and substituted the letter which is in Appendix, No. 2, and is the Treasury letter of the 2nd March 1897, signed by Sir Francis Mowatt.

333. The point is that the letter was substituted; may we have the correspondence, not the letters of the Treasury, but the letters of the Science and Art Department in connection with this substituted letter?—I should certainly say, no.

Sir *John Gorst*.

334. Is there any correspondence?—I do not know that there is, but I do not think it would be right to produce it if there was any; it would be absolutely of a private character, but, as far as I was aware, no letter was written from the department in answer or in relation to the withdrawn letter. My recollection is that the withdrawn letter was withdrawn by the Treasury on their own initiative, although I do not know what conversations may have taken place on the subject.

Lord *Balcarres*.

335. I will take it from you that there was no correspondence between the Science and Art Department and the Treasury about the substitution of their second for their first letter?—I have just said to the best of my recollection there is not.

336. You will, perhaps, make quite sure, and inform us next time?—I have said just now I think it would be right that I should decline to produce it if there was.

337. You decline to produce it in the event of such a correspondence existing?—Of a private character, yes.

338. To the best of your knowledge you believe no such letter exists?—That is the best of my belief.

339. I see in Question 128, the first question of the second day, you mention that a gratuity was allowed by the Treasury?—Yes.

340. I should like that you should put in the "necessary certificate of conduct," as is mentioned towards the end of Question 128, and any correspondence; all correspondence relating to the question of gratuity?—It is the ordinary form filled up; I will send it in.

0.5—3.

*Chairman*.

341. Is it a standing form?—Yes, a standing form which is always filled in when you apply for a pension or gratuity.

Mr. *Woodall*.

342. A Treasury form?—Yes

*Chairman*.

343. Have you a copy here?—No, but I will put it in.

Lord *Balcarres*.

344. And the correspondence, if such existed?—It went with that letter, and is referred to in it.

345. Did Mr. Weale retire automatically, if I may use the word, on the 23rd July?—I do not quite understand; he ought to have retired on the 23rd July, automatically, but as I explained, his time was extended to the 22nd October, I think it was; I made a full statement before, giving all the details.

346. You do not quite understand my question, which I admit is somewhat obscure; did Mr. Weale know that the day upon which this Committee reported, his services were legally, officially, at an end?—I do not know.

347. Was there a correspondence about the demission of Mr. Weale?—With whom?

348. With anybody?—There was a correspondence with the Vice-President, certainly; I mean my official correspondence with the Vice-President in the office on the subject.

349. Are you quite sure of the accuracy of your answer?—They are official papers; I did not like to try and fence with the question; I might have said there was no correspondence, and gone off on the tack that the official minutes had passed between the Vice-President and myself; I do not think there was any letter, but there were the official papers.

350. Minutes, correspondence, and papers?—I included minutes in the word correspondence, that is all.

351. And by the word correspondence, I connoted everything of an official character put upon paper?—Yes.

352. You say there was correspondence; between whom?—Between myself, the Vice-President, and the Lord-President.

353. And the Treasury?—About what?

354. About the demission of Mr. Weale?—Certainly; then we applied; the letter I have put in applied for a gratuity for him.

355. I am speaking about the demission, quite distinct from the question of gratuity, which I consider a separate question altogether?—You mean; did we before sending that letter write to the Treasury after the 23rd July on the subject of Mr. Weale's retirement?—Yes.

356. Yes?—No, not that I know of.

357. There was no correspondence, official or otherwise, or documentary orders, with regard to the retirement of Mr. Weale?—No, and I think it is quite clear that there was not, because I think that letter about the gratuity refers to the first letter; there was no correspondence that I have any recollection of, and I am pretty certain there was not.

358. Will you please make the inquiry whether there was any correspondence whatever between any of the official parties about the retirement of Mr. Weale quite distinct from the question of

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25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

the gratuity?—Yes, I am pretty certain there was not, but I will make further inquiry.

359. I see, in Question 103, where Sir Henry Howorth says, "Has a correspondence taken place between the department and the Treasury, since August last year, as to the cessation of office of Mr. Weale?" and you say, "Yes, I think Mr. Weale's case was mentioned *à propos* of some other matter. Can you produce the correspondence? Well, I can if I am authorised to do so." The next question asks how many letters there were, and you say, "The one from the Treasury and the one from the department. Two letters altogether? As far as I remember now." Those letters deal, not with the gratuity, but with what Sir Henry Howorth calls "the cessation of office of Mr. Weale?"—I do not understand what the question is.

360. I gathered from you just now that there had been, to the best of your recollection, in fact, to your certain belief, no correspondence of the kind; here it is distinctly mentioned, two letters?—These letters, referred to there, are what, with the sanction of the Vice-President and the Treasury, have been handed in.

361. That is a letter dated in February 1897 which you have just handed in?—I mean those which are printed.

362. Will you refer me to them?—I really do not understand what your question is.

Mr. *Ernest Gray*.

363. I understand that two letters passed respecting the cessation of office at a date prior to the sitting of this Committee. That is so, is it not; two that have already been put in?—Yes; one the letter in answer to that letter which has just been put in. If you remember, as I stated before, I was speaking from memory, and I believe I said there were two letters, and I believe, instead of that, there were three or four, for all I know; but all the letters have been put in.

364. The Committee terminated its labours in July or August, so far as the year was concerned; were there, from that date, any further letters with the Treasury respecting the cessation of office prior to the correspondence relating to the gratuity; was there any correspondence with the Treasury in July, August, and September of 1897?—No, I have said not that I have the slightest recollection of, and I am pretty certain there was not.

365. Therefore, the two letters you were referring to in Questions 103, 104, 105, and 106 are the two letters of February and March of that year; is that so?—No.

Lord *Balcarres*.

366. I will make it quite clear; was there any correspondence between 23rd July, the date of our Report, and the 6th August, the date of Mr. Weale's cessation of office?—Between the date of the Report of the Committee, and the date of the letter sent by Mr. Trendell, telling Mr. Weale his services would terminate; is that what you mean?

367. Yes?—No, Mr. Trendell's letter is dated 13th August, and there was no correspondence

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

with the Treasury between 23rd July and 13th August.

368. Was there correspondence in the department, or official papers?—Certainly, there were official papers. With regard to those papers, if I may say so, I should decline, on my own account, to produce them. The minister is responsible, and he may overrule me, or act on my advice. If the minister or anybody can produce my papers when it suits him, it would give me a right to produce minutes when I had been overruled, and when my action has been attacked, and you could not have the one right without the other; and if that was the form of the public service, it would go to pieces in 24 hours.

369. In order to have that in a concrete form on the minutes, I will ask you if you will hand in the correspondence, the departmental correspondence, minutes, official documents, and so forth, between July 23rd and August 13th?—I must respectfully decline.

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.

370. What was the other matter, *à propos* of which Mr. Weale's case was mentioned in Question 103?—In that Treasury letter they refer to the possibility of extending his services; that was what was in my mind.

Lord *Balcarres*.

371. It is not quite clear, because it appears that Mr. Weale's case, in the answer to Question 103, was subordinated to some other question?—I was asked with regard to the correspondence, and whether it was mentioned; unless I could have repeated those letters off by heart, which I could not, all my recollection on the matter was that something had been said incidentally in one of the letters that had passed, about the extension of Mr. Weale's services, and I said that I believed it had been referred to *à propos* of something else. The letters are in, and you have the whole reference there.

372. I see that in Question 107, with regard to this correspondence, you say the Treasury did say something about Mr. Weale, and no reply was given?—"In connection with this the Treasury did say something about Mr. Weale." I do not understand "no reply was given." If I said that I made a mistake, but I do not remember having said it. I have told you exactly how it occurred; that there was this letter in my mind in which a reference was made to the possibility of the extension of Mr. Weale's services; that was what was in my mind when I gave the answer to Question 103.

373. I will take it from you then that it is an error to say that the Treasury made some communication to which the Science and Art Department did not reply?—Yes, I do not remember any communication of theirs to which we did not give any reply.

374. You are quite certain that such a thing did not occur?—As certain as I can be of anything I have to trust to my memory for.

375. I wish to be perfectly certain of all these facts. Would you refer to the document. My cross-examination has been entirely for the purpose of eliciting the facts as to correspondence, minutes,



25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

minutes, and so forth until those papers are in my hands. I do not cross-examine on questions of policy?—There was no correspondence that I am aware of that has been asked for that has not been produced. The minutes, of course, in the office have not been produced.

376. By the word "correspondence" in this connection I can note all the official things, such as minutes, documents, orders, letters and correspondence, &c?—Then, as I say, I respectfully decline to produce the correspondence between myself and the Vice-President.

377. Is it the case that the services of Mr. Armstrong, the Director for Art, have been extended?—Yes.

378. Is it in respect of age; is he 65, or over 65?—Yes.

379. May we have the conditions of that extension?—Yes, I think it is published as a minute which has been laid on the table of the House of Commons.

380. When was the extension made?—Somewhere about October, I think. The minute, I think, was laid on the table of the House before the end of the last session. I know it has been laid on the table of the House, as all these extensions are.

381. The House of Commons rose on the 6th August with respect to Mr. Armstrong, whose time was to be extended beginning from October; the extension was settled three months beforehand?—I think so.

382. Mr. Weale's was only settled four days beforehand?—I think it was settled some time beforehand.

383. Was not the letter, dating Mr. Weale's extension, on the 2nd March?—I only said there was a minute, and it may have been laid on the table of the House this session, but I am not at all certain. It was done in the regular way by the Treasury, and I have seen the minute referred to in print several times.

*Chairman.*

384. There are a number of names on the same return?—Yes. With regard to Mr. Weale, the application was made on the 19th February, when his services would finish on the 8th March.

Lord *Balcarres*.

385. And the Treasury letter arrived on the 2nd March, did it not, and the extension took place from the 8th of the same month?—I dare say.

386. We may have, I understand, the terms and conditions of Mr. Armstrong's extension, if they have not already been presented to Parliament?—Yes, but they have been presented to Parliament.

*Chairman.*

387. Will you put it in as a paper for the Appendix?—Yes, I will get a copy of the return. I daresay the clerk could get you a copy of the return now.

Lord *Balcarres*.—That would show who he was recommended by, and so forth, and what for.

Sir *John Gorst*.—The recommendation must be made by the head of the department, the Lord President.

0.5—3.

Lord *Balcarres*.

388. Does the Lord President receive no information from his subordinate officials as to the propriety of extending the officer's services?—I suppose he does, as a rule. I should think probably he does, as a rule.

389. It would not go through the secretary of the department?—As a rule it would.

390. Not invariably?—Heads of departments may act in perfectly different ways; I could not answer for every department of the State.

391. I am speaking for your department?—You did not speak of my department, you said, "heads of departments," and I answered the question as it was put.

392. I mean the heads of the department in the South Kensington Museum?—The heads of the department are the Lord President and the Vice-President, and the Lord President and the Vice-President may, if they like, consult me as to the extension of a person's services, or they may not.

393. I am afraid I have not yet made my meaning clear, owing to the inappreciation of the exact meaning of the different terms. When I said the "heads of departments," I meant the higher officials who take control of certain branches of the museum work, the director of the art museum, the director of the science museum, and so forth; and I wish to know from you whether persons such as that, heads of certain branches of the museum work, send in recommendations directly to the Lord President without the intervention of the secretary of the department?—No, it would be irregular for them to do so.

394. Then, if in the case of Mr. Armstrong, or in the case of Mr. Weale, or any case in which an official's service has been extended, and in which a person in the position of the director of the art museum, or the director of the science museum, has sent in a recommendation, that has gone through you, the secretary of the department?—As far as I am aware it always has.

395. And you do not know if anybody except yourself recommended the extension of Mr. Armstrong's time?—I never said anything of the kind, or suggested it.

396. I misunderstood you then?—I have never said that nobody except myself recommended the extension of Mr. Armstrong's time, nor did I even say that I had myself recommended it, at least I do not remember having said anything of the kind.

397. I beg your pardon, I misunderstood you then?—

Mr. *Woodall*.

398. Is there any other officer of the department to whom Mr. Armstrong may be regarded as subordinate?—No.

399. Had the application for his extension of time anything whatever to do with the sitting of this Committee; was that one of the reasons stated to the Treasury?—Yes, I think it was one of them; this Committee, and for reasons connected with the transfer of drawing in elementary schools to the Education Department at Whitehall, and the transfer of all the science and art grants in Scotland to the Scotch Education Department, and also pending changes in the Royal College of Art.

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400. But



25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

400. But, altogether apart from the inquiry confided to this Committee, an extension of Mr. Armstrong's time was desirable?—Certainly.

401. Was that the case with regard to Mr. Weale; were Mr. Weale's services desired by the department for any reason outside the subject of the inquiry by this Committee?—No, I think that was the only reason given.

402. So that there is a broad distinction between the motives which prompted the department to apply for an extension of time in the one case and in the other?—Yes.

Lord Balcarres.

403. That is to say, the department settled, with regard to that particular item, what this Committee would require or not?—No, it did not.

404. I think that a legitimate deduction from the question of Mr. Woodall, and its answer: Did you say he was re-appointed with a view to helping this Committee?—

Mr. Woodall.

405. The witness said that that was one of the reasons?—

Lord Balcarres.

406. Partly with a view of helping this Committee?—I think one of the reasons, given in the application to the Treasury, was with reference to the continuance or re-appointment of this Committee.

407. And partly with regard to his other functions of transferring drawing?—No, that is not a part of his functions, transferring the drawing, but that there was then pending the transfer of all the drawing in elementary schools from the Science and Art Department to the Education Department at Whitehall. There was then pending the transfer of the science and art grants in Scotland, that is to say, both the elementary schools and science and art schools, to the Scotch Education Department. There was also pending the question of changes that were necessarily to take place in the College of Art, because the principal is now 65 years of age; therefore there must be a change very soon in the principalship of the College of Art.

408. Does that involve Mr. Armstrong's retention of office?—Yes, to some extent, because, you see, other arrangements may have to be made when this principal leaves.

409. It is contemplated to make other changes?—They may have to be made.

410. It is contemplated?—I cannot say what is contemplated by the Lord President at all; I have no business to commit him to any contemplation.

411. Have you got the figures which I asked you for, with respect to the catalogue of photographs; the daily fees and so on?—Yes; Mr. Pollen received three guineas a day; Mr. Laskey and Mr. Sketchley fifteen shillings a day.

412. And there was a boy writer, according to Mr. Weale?—You asked me for the fees paid to Mr. Pollen, Mr. Laskey and Mr. Sketchley, and I have given their fees; there may have been several boy writers, but that did not affect their fees.

Lord Balcarres—continued.

413. I asked what were the annual salaries or payments made to Mr. Pollen and his company; I think these were the words I used?—His company were Mr. Laskey and Mr. Sketchley.

414. Apparently there were some boy writers?—Yes, employed in the place.

415. That surely would add to the cost of the catalogue, would it not?—Yes; I gave you the total amount paid to those gentlemen, and you asked me, as I understood, what their daily fee was, and I have given you the daily fee; the boy writer is paid at fourpence an hour.

416. You do not know how many there were?—I believe there was one, but there may have been two.

417. I must again postpone it; I regret I did not make my meaning clear?—I was told to bring down the information with regard to a question asked in the House of Commons. [*The witness read Questions 302 to 305*]. That was what I thought was wanted, and I have given you the daily fees of these gentlemen.

418. I am sorry I did not put my question sufficiently clearly. I wish to find out the total salaries of everybody, and I must, therefore, again postpone my question?—Am I to put in the salaries of an attendant who happened to be assisting them as well? These people are working with some of the museum staff who helped them to carry and arrange and put by these photographs. Therefore, I daresay, there was one of the attendants at work; am I to give his salary as well?

419. Not unless he was put into the Art Library for the time *ad hoc*, and I do not want the salaries of the boy writers unless they were specifically employed for Mr. Pollen's work, and after Mr. Pollen's work, resumed their former work. Are these gentlemen working now?—No, I do not think they are; I think the vote was exhausted and they had to cease.

420. You will remember that at the end of last Session you promised to hand in a statement with regard to the catalogue of portraits of which we have heard a great deal; if you will turn to the Appendix, No. 41, will you tell me when the last payment on behalf of this catalogue was made to Mr. Julian Marshall?—Do you refer to the one which is ambiguous, and which the clerk of accounts could not say whether the money, the sum of 75*l.*, ought to be credited to this work or some other work?

421. I confess the whole thing is to me ambiguous, but I want to know is it not the fact, according to that Appendix, that no payment, subsequent to July 1895, was made to Mr. Marshall on behalf of the portrait catalogue?—Here are all the three vouchers of the payments. I thought that was what was wanted. What is the point?

422. I ask whether, after July 1895, any payment was made to Mr. Marshall on behalf of the national portrait catalogue?—It says here, "in July 1895, a further sum of 56*l.* was paid, and the voucher described the payment as being for engraved portraits, and as the work of foreign engraved portraits had been begun, and been partly paid for, it is supposed it was considered as not belonging to the national engraved portrait catalogue. It is, therefore, a question

as



25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

as to whether to the cost of 409*l.* previously reported, should be added the sum of 210*l.* or 266*l.* 14*s.* All the vouchers are attached." These are the vouchers, and they give the dates and a description of the work done which is initialled by Mr. Weale, and certified by Mr. Clarke; and the clerk of accounts, in taking the amount out from these vouchers for what was spent on the National Portrait Catalogue, did not take out a certain sum which was ambiguously stated in Mr. Weale's voucher. I have the vouchers here if you wish to see them.

423. Excuse me, but you have answered a question which I did not ask. I want to know, it is a very simple thing, whether any payment was made to Mr. Julian Marshall, subsequent to the payment mentioned in July 1895, on behalf of the National Portrait Catalogue?—I cannot say; that was not the question I was asked to prepare for here. I do not think so, but I will find that out if you like.

424. It is the last payment mentioned in Mr. Edward Harris's report?—Yes.

425. Is he the bookkeeper?—Well, he is the assistant clerk of accounts.

426. He would be cognisant of payments and so forth, I presume, from the fact that it was his duty to make this memorandum for the secretary?—Yes.

427. We may therefore assume that, at any rate, so far as was known in July 1897, this statement is correct, that nothing was paid subsequent to July 1895?—As far as I remember about it, it has nothing to do with payments made after July 1895. There was a question asked of the Vice-President, I forget on what date, and of course these accounts were all made up to that date, and this is explaining about a mistake in the amounts given to the Vice-President, and explained that up to the date of this question. Whether further payments were made to Mr. Marshall after the question is another thing altogether, and I do not remember whether there were or not.

428. I wish to get the precise cost of this and other works, and in order to do so, I ask whether the last-mentioned item of expenditure is actually the last item which was paid?—Up to the date of this question to which this refers?

429. You see the statement in Parliament was incorrect, and in the appendix is ambiguous?—I do not think there is anything ambiguous in the appendix.

430. All I wish to do is to settle what I consider to be an ambiguity, as between the cost of 409*l.*, as to whether 210*l.* or 266*l.* should be added to the original cost as stated in Parliament; that is an ambiguity I wish to clear up?—Nothing can settle that, because it is impossible to go behind these vouchers and find out whether that voucher refers to that particular collection of portraits, or whether it refers to other work which Mr. Julian Marshall was doing at different times while that portrait catalogue was going on.

431. I can be perfectly satisfied if I am told whether any payment was made subsequent to those already mentioned in the appendix?—Do you mean subsequent to the question asked of the Vice-President; this was an account up to

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Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

the time that that question was asked of the Vice-President. In the answer of the Vice-President a mistake was made. That mistake was corrected by Mr. Harris's memorandum, and that all relates to transactions which happened before the Vice-President's answer. Now to make it quite clear I want to know whether you mean by "subsequent payments," payments made after the question was asked of the Vice-President.

432. No, because the book was published before the question was asked of the Vice-President?—Then these account for all payments to Mr. Marshall.

433. I am therefore to assume that Mr. Edward Harris is correct in saying that no payment was made subsequent to July 1895.—If he states so, I have no doubt he is perfectly correct.

434. I suppose the last payment of that kind would be for the correcting of proofs?—I do not know.

435. He was paid for correcting proofs, was he not?—The last payment is 55*l.* It is thus described in the voucher: "I certify that Mr. Julian Marshall, 13, Belsize Avenue, N.W., is entitled to receive the sum of 56*l.* 14*s.* for describing portraits in the National Art Library Collection of Prints and Drawings, 27 days, at two guineas per day, September 11th to October 21st." That is initialled by Mr. Weale, and certified on that by Dr. Middleton, and paid by the clerk in charge of the accounts.

436. I wanted to know whether it was for correcting proofs?—That is all there is; I cannot tell you behind the voucher that the certifying officer gives.

437. It is impossible to say whether that was for correcting proofs or not?—Certainly, I know nothing about whether he was correcting proofs or what he was doing when he was doing this work; he was doing it under Mr. Weale and Dr. Middleton.

438. Perhaps Mr. Weale would be the more proper person to ask?—I daresay; at all events I cannot answer that question.

439. You see why I ask is this, because payment ceased in July 1895, and the catalogue was not issued until the beginning of June 1896, and I wish to know why, assuming he was paid for his proofs, no payments were made after July 1895, and between that time and the issue of the book in June 1896?—It was for that reason that I hesitated about taking the point whether you meant payments made before or after the Vice-President answered the question; I cannot tell you now whether any payments were made to Mr. Julian Marshall for this catalogue after the Vice-President answered the question.

440. I want to know if you have had any difficulty in making up your answers owing to the perfunctory character of Mr. Weale's vouchers?—I think the vouchers were quite enough for their purpose; I do not think there was anything perfunctory about them. The main object of a voucher is to vouch that a certain payment is due, and the voucher vouches that this gentleman, who was employed at two guineas a day, did give attendance on the days stated, and was to receive two guineas for each day. But a voucher does not go into whether

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25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

he is describing the prints, or arranging the prints, or correcting the proofs.

441. I asked whether the vouchers of Mr. Weale which you state to be perfunctory had made it difficult for you to work out the precise cost of this catalogue?—Did I say they were perfunctory?

442. Yes?—Well, it is a wrong word to use; but they did not go into those points which have nothing to do with the matter. The vouchers never go into matters of that kind; when a person is employed by the day, they state broadly what he is doing, but they do not state what is the exact form of work he has been employed on; in fact, they could not. The man is there, and he may describe the prints for a certain portion of the day, or he may be revising proofs another part of the day, or he may be re-arranging the collection another part of the day.

443. I wish to know a further point, which, of course, you may not possibly answer now, but which, I imagine, will be easy to answer with the help of your accountants, and that is, how many days Mr. Marshall was occupied upon foreign portraits, so far as that can be worked out, and the correlative fact, how much he has been paid for that purpose?—As I have tried to explain before, you cannot get at that accurately, because these vouchers do not specify when it is on one part of the work, or on another part of the work. Sometimes they did specify the portraits in the National Portrait Collection, and sometimes they did not specify or differentiate between one part of the work and the other.

444. In that case, I must ask you to give me the total sum of money paid to Mr. Julian Marshall for the two catalogues, and a statement of the number of foreign portraits, of which he has completed his catalogue?—Yes.

445. Is Mr. Marshall working now?—No.

446. Has he worked since July, 1895?—Oh, yes, he was working part of last year.

447. In the early part of last year?—I cannot tell you, but part of last year I believe he was working.

Sir Henry Howorth.

448. During the last session there was a general agreement of opinion in the Committee that it would be well, if possible, to do away with the entrance fee to the public; the 6d. entrance fee. I think in that opinion you yourself concurred; has anything been done in the meantime by correspondence with the Treasury, or otherwise, to try and do away with this charge?—No; we did apply about the Edinburgh Museum, but not about the South Kensington Museum.

449. Has a change been made in consequence?—No; Dublin is free.

450. And do you yourself see any good reason why that charge should continue if it is thought by the Treasury that it might be done away with?—Barring the finance, the difference of money, I should say that it would be desirable to have the museum free every day. You are aware that part of it is free every day; all those parts west of Exhibition-road are free every day.

451. With regard to the catalogues which are sold in the building, the proceeds of which are paid to their authors, who are not members of

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

the museum staff, would it be possible to have a list of such catalogues and the conditions under which they such sales take place?—I have here this memorandum, if you will allow me to go through it. The question was 167; I was to produce Colonel Plunkett's guides. These are the Dublin Museum guides, and these the guides of the South Kensington Museum that were referred to. Lord Balcarras, in Question 169, stated that they were published by authority, but that is not so, I have here a list of all the catalogues that are sold. There are two lists; one is "list of publications issued by authority of the Department of Science and Art," and the other is "the following publications, although not issued under the authority of the Department, may be obtained by personal application at the catalogue or photograph stalls," and therefore they are published (I think you will see on the outside) "with the sanction of the Department." Those are the two lists, and that last catalogue is here: "Guide to the South Kensington Museum, with plans and wood engravings, 6d.; or with eight coloured additional plates, 9d." I asked as to whom they belonged to, and Mr. Clarke says that that guide has been published by Messrs. Spottiswoode and Company for the past 30 years, and was formerly the property of J. Cundall, Esq., deceased; it is carried on now by the publishers on behalf of the widow; our hand-books are the property of Messrs. Chapman and Hall, and the South Kensington portfolios belong to Mr. Griggs of Balham; I believe in all the above cases the works are produced at a loss, which is, however, covered by the advertisements; and I should think if you would look at those books you will see that there is a very good sixpennyworth, and I think you will see that the type and getting up is better than the Stationery Office produce for our works that we ourselves produce; another question was asked me, whether if somebody else wanted to produce a guide, he would be allowed to do so. I find another publisher has already been discussing the subject with Mr. Clarke, and, of course, if he is a man of means, and produces a proper book, I suppose my Lords would sanction it, as they sanctioned those being sold on the book-stall.

452. What is the principle on which the price of, what I should call the extraneous publications is fixed; does the publisher charge any price he pleases?—In that case I do not know how it was arranged, but he proposes, I believe, to produce a sixpenny guide, and showed what he was going to produce, and sanction was given to its sale at the bookstall. Then with regard to certain handbooks, the manuscript is provided for Messrs. Chapman and Hall, who undertake to publish them so that they shall be sold at the bookstall at 1s. apiece, and, I believe, there is no doubt that they are losers by that, but they make up by publishing a better edition, and selling it at a larger price elsewhere. At the museum book-stall you can get it at a lesser price than you can at their own shop. Then with regard to the Griggs's publication, he undertakes to produce these at a certain price, and to sell them at a certain price at the bookstall, and for schools of art, and we take a certain number, which are circulated to schools of art. Of the other publications



25 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

cations (those by the authority of the department) which are printed at the Stationery Office, the price is fixed absolutely by the Stationery Office, and we have nothing to do with it. The price of those books is fixed by the cost of printing, and has nothing to do with the total cost, as is well known by everybody with regard to any blue book, that the cost of producing it has nothing to do with the cost of sale.

453. Is the cost of selling these in the museum (the cost of the stall in which these are sold) distributed amongst the different people who have these books to sell, or do you sell them quite freely?—Quite free; we do not charge them anything.

454. That is part of the understanding?—Yes, they get sanction to sell them at the bookstall.

454.\* To turn to another point, on which I was not quite clear the other day (this is a matter raised by Lord Balcarras), it is not possible to equate statements in the Estimates with the statements in the Appropriation Account completely, because you may spend either less or more than the actual estimate, that is quite clear; but it would be possible, I think, to equate them in form, that is to say, that where in the Estimates you have a number of items put under one head, the Estimates being for each separate item, you might have in the Appropriation Account a corresponding paragraph, also separating the expenditure of these various sums under the same heads, instead of lumping them all together, as is done at present; do you think that would be possible?—No, I should have no right to do it even if I wanted to. If you will look at the memorandum, you will see on page 322 of the Estimates now on the table, "Sub-heads under which this Vote will be accounted for by the Department of Science and Art." I can only account for them under sub-heads, and I am bound to do that by the form in which I have to account to the Comptroller and Auditor General. If you will allow me, you referred to the British Museum in a question; they account for their furniture, though it is estimated under different estimates, exactly as we do, all together, and the Appropriation Account will only show you the amount they spend under the H., F., or I, or whatever the sub-head may be.

455. Yes, that is perfectly true, but still there is a qualification, as between the Natural History Museum and the museum in Bloomsbury?—Certainly, just as there is a difference between South Kensington and Dublin, or Jermyn-street and Edinburgh; those are all separate museums; but Bethnal Green is not a separate museum from the South Kensington, except in location; it is all managed by the same staff, who go from the one to the other, and you might as well have a different appropriation for cases on the east side from that for cases provided on the west side of Exhibition-road, as to have a separate appropriation for cases in the Bethnal Green Museum.

456. If that is so, why should you have a separate estimate?—To give the Treasury, or anybody who chooses to look at the Estimates, a general idea of the ratio or

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

proportion in which the sub-head will in all probability be divided amongst the different institutions.

457. Do you think that it conduces to good control that you should, for a series of years, have a special estimate under the name of "general administration," another special estimate under the head of "South Kensington Museum including India Museum," another special estimate under the head of "Bethnal Green Museum," another under "Royal College of Science, London," and another under "Art Training School," and that every one of those estimated sums should, at the instance of the department itself, be spent on any one of those headings?—Certainly I think so, and the form of the estimate was settled, if not prepared, by the Treasury. The amounts of the estimate put in under each sub-head are carefully examined and approved by the Treasury. Those estimates, in that form, go before the House of Commons, and they are sanctioned in that form by the House of Commons, and the House of Commons lays down exactly how we shall account for them, and they have their own officer, who is not one of the ordinary officers of State; they have their own officer, an officer of the House of Commons, the Comptroller and Auditor General, who then examines those accounts, and he certifies them to the House, and we have no more right to change that than we have to change anything else; in fact we could not change it.

458. My question is really directed to whether the Comptroller General really controls all these matters?—I should like to add, as you have raised the question, there have been so many questions raised on these matters of account, without apparent knowledge of the gentlemen asking them of me as to how they are audited, that it gives the impression, I think rather naturally gives the impression (certainly out of doors, as one may judge by the newspapers), that there is a pretty considerable amount of swindling going on. There is unquestionably; I see it in cuttings from newspapers, which come to me day after day, in which they say that some question was asked about the accounts, and that Sir John Donnelly could not give a satisfactory explanation, and that they hoped the Committee would probe this matter of malversation of public money to the bottom. I do not see how anybody can help that, when they see question after question on the subject of mere accounts which are settled by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and are certified by him as correct. I venture to protest against the way in which these questions are tending to give really a very false idea of the whole subject of administration of the Grants of the Department.

*Chairman.*

459. You were asked by Mr. Bartley the last time what you thought would be an ideal staff, and you said you would prepare a statement; will you put that in?—I have it, and I now hand it in.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next,  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 25th March 1898.*

*Major-General Sir John Donnelly, K.C.B.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

4.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the  
Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

Tuesday, 29th March 1898.

[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]



*Tuesday, 29th March 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Major-General Sir JOHN DONNELLY, K.C.B., called in; and further Examined.

*Witness.]* THERE were a number of points which were left over about which I was asked to give information. I think it would save the time of the Committee and prevent a great deal of confusion if I were allowed to go through these *seriatim*. First, as to Questions 120 to 122 and 279; those are about the Furniture Vote, part to the Science Museum, part to the Art Museum, and part to the Bethnal Green Museum. I sent for information on the point. In the Science Museum there are 583 cases with 1,802 feet run of wall cases, there are also 111 cases in the ship-model collection, mostly, which have come on loan or gift. Then in the Art Museum and circulation there is a total of 1,462 glass cases and 2,016 feet run of glass wall cases. This is Mr. Clarke's memorandum. To these should be added many thousands of glazed frames of various sizes and 116 inside frame stands for the textile collection. In no single year, as far as I can ascertain, has the Art Museum and its circulation section, one or the other, gone without new cases, but during the past two years the more pressing demands of circulation have been first attended to. Last year the Art Library required some expensive presses of large size, which were paid for out of H. 5. Having experienced considerable trouble through sudden demands for cases from the several divisions of the Art Museum, I requested the keepers to send me an estimate of their probable requirements for the coming year, and after modifying it sent the list to General Festing, who has proportionately increased his estimate for H. 5. Sir Henry Howorth was evidently misinformed respecting the cause of the deficiency in the supply of cases to the Art Museum, as in no year was all the money under H. 5 spent on the Science Museum, so far as I am aware. Then as to the question of dividing the Bethnal Green portion, General Festing says: "The sum provided under H. 5 of the Estimates is accounted for as a whole. The accounts are therefore not kept of each sub-division separately, and to get out the cost of articles ordered expressly for the Bethnal Green Museum for the last 10 years would be a very tedious work. Nor would it, when done, fairly represent the expenditure on account of that museum, for many of

the cases and fittings have been transferred from the South Kensington Museum. The sum inserted against Bethnal Green is intended to be an approximate estimate of the total value of the things which will be required there during the financial year. H. 5 covers the cost, not only of cases and fittings for the exhibition of objects, but also that of blinds and of materials used in the repair of skylights, &c.

As to the India Museum Fire (Q. 149) there was a meeting of the Committee of Advice and Reference on the Indian Collections on the 23rd of November 1885, at which there were present Sir John Strachey, Sir George Birdwood, Mr. E. Brandreth, Mr. J. Fergusson, Colonel Keatinge, and General Strachey. "General Festing" (I am reading from the minutes of the meeting) "read the official reports of the fire on the 12th June last, by which a portion of the Indian collections was damaged, and with the aid of a sketch pointed out the origin and extent of the fire and the means by which its progress was checked. Mr. Purdon Clarke gave an epitome of the report of the objects destroyed or seriously damaged: from this it appeared that with some few exceptions such as the Ajunta Cave paintings, the model of the tomb of Runjeet Singh, and that of a palace at Benares, the injury was confined to articles which had been put aside, many of them being loans unsuited for exhibition, awaiting removal. The Committee recommended: (1) That a précis of the report of injuries done by the fire of 12th June be sent by the department to the India Office, with a request that the Ajunta Cave paintings which have been injured may be replaced, and that Mr. Purdon Clarke be requested to prepare a report of the present condition of the Ajunta Cave paintings in the museum, embodying his proposals, for completing the series of full sized copies, of which only a portion will be exhibited, and the remainder shown by a photographic key." There is nothing else in that.

Lord Balcarras.

460. All I asked for was for a return of the objects damaged and destroyed?—Here is the list, that we reported to the India Office, of the Ajunta Cave drawings that we still had, some of them



29 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Lord Balcarres*—continued.

them having been destroyed. We knew nothing about them, and have had to make out the list from that of what had been destroyed. I have here what was sent to the India Office; I do not know that it is worth while reading it.

*Chairman.*

461. Is it long?—It is a long list of frescoes damaged by fire, and so on. There were a large number of the Ajunta Cave drawings which were destroyed by fire.

As to Questions 164, 165, and 166 about M. Vachon's Report and the addition I made to it, it was a mistake. I daresay I put it in by accident. It was six mille francs, and that has got translated "million" instead of "thousand" francs.

As to Question 180, the Piot Collection, this is the statement in the "Pall Mall Gazette" of 10th September 1897, under the heading of "The Scandals at South Kensington Museum," No. 1, the last paragraph: "We happen to know of another purchase made before Mr. Weale's time, of a collection of books weeded out from the library of one of the most acute collectors in Paris, M. Eugène Piot, comprising, among the rest, funeral sermons, verses, and orations in honour of weddings, descriptions of fetes, books on the arts of cooking, dancing, and hairdressing, for which that gentleman was paid 25,000 francs. They were so contemptible that, in spite of pressure, nothing would persuade Mr. Soden Smith to catalogue them. They still remain uncatalogued. In short, the whole of the evidence gathered by the Select Committee convincingly proves the utter mismanagement that goes on at South Kensington." Then the answer to that to which Lord Balcarres referred in his question is this: "To the editor of the 'Pall Mall Gazette.'—Sir, In your issue of the 10th instant, your correspondent on the subject of the management of the South Kensington Museum says that the Piot Collection of 'pageants' has not been catalogued, and that Mr. Soden Smith thought it 'too contemptible.' This is a mistake. Under the direction of Mr. Soden Smith, I worked in the art library, in 1882, for the express purpose of cataloguing the collection, and unless great trouble has been taken in removing the slips from the catalogue book, their titles will all be found in their places. The work was extremely interesting. The pageants described in contemporary publications were coronations, marriages, royal progresses, operas; in fact, all kinds of pageants, with quaint illustrations, and, one would think, of immense value to dramatists, novelists, and students of costume. I believe there was a prejudice against their acquisition, but I never could account for it. The works were in all European languages, from Scandinavian to Spanish, and many of the incidents of great historical importance. I not only prepared catalogue slips, and slips for the subject index of the library catalogue, but I left with the library a full catalogue of the Piot Collection by itself, which ought still to be forthcoming." This collection was reported upon by Mr. Soden Smith in 1879, and he reported very strongly in favour of its purchase on that recommendation; it was purchased with the approval of Sir Edward

0.5—4.

*Chairman*—continued.

Poynter; it has been catalogued; there is a manuscript catalogue in slip form of the Piot Collection, in the making of which Mr. Mollett had some share. This is a note by the librarian. "There is a slip index too; both are still kept in a box in the art library."

Question 180 was this. "With regard to the catalogue of the Piot Collection, it appeared in the newspapers, I think, before Christmas that Mr. Mollett said he had made a catalogue of this collection. Is that the case?—(A.) I do not know. (Q.) Perhaps you would inquire?—(A.) Yes."

*Chairman.*

462. Who did make this catalogue?—Mr. Mollett and some others, but Mr. Mollett was principally employed.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

463. What was this letter you read in the "Pall Mall Gazette"?—It was signed "J. W. Mollett, Lyme Regis, September 11th," and it appeared in the "Pall Mall Gazette," of September 14th 1897.

Then there was a Question 192—193, with regard to the theft of a watch, in which it was stated that Mr. Adams had received compensation for a watch which had been stolen by Private Winchester, of the Royal Engineers, and for which he had been charged. It was said that he "suffered a loss of a gold watch, for the loss of which a certain Private Winchester, of the Royal Engineers, was charged."

*Sir John Gorst.*

464. What is the date of it?—It is stated that it occurred in 1858; the question had been put once before in Mr. John Burns' questions, numbers 1835 to 1840, but no names or date were then given, so I could not follow it out.

*Chairman.*

465. Was that museum under the control of the department at that time?—In both instances it is put as if it was South Kensington Museum, whereas there was a watch stolen from the Patent Museum, which was at South Kensington, and which was part of the buildings of the South Kensington Museum, but with a separate entrance and with no communication between.

466. Under whose control was it?—Under the Patent Commissioners; but, of course, the sappers were under the officer in charge of the sappers at that time, who happened to be myself, and the police were the ordinary police. The clerk of accounts has searched the records for the years 1858 and 1859, and has failed to find that any payment was made for the watch said to have been stolen in 1858. The "Times" has been searched, and there is no trace of any Sapper Winchester or anyone else being charged with the theft. The superintendent of police made inquiries for me at Walton-street, Westminster, and Scotland Yard, and there is no trace of any such charge. The only kind of record that there is in the department on the subject is that on the 13th of October 1858, a Mr. J. Nasmyth said he had received a watch lately stolen from the Patent Museum, and

against



29 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

against that is "nil" in the register. I was the officer in charge of the sappers at that time, and I think if any of the sappers had been charged with this theft I should have remembered it, and I do not.

Lord *Balcarres*.

467. Is it the case that the estimate for police was double the next year?—How can I answer that? I was not even one of the department's staff; I was simply an officer on the London district, and in charge of the sappers there. I had no knowledge of the estimates then.

As to Questions 209, 213, and 214, van service and carriage, 250*l.* only is for carriage of museum objects purchased abroad; the remaining 350*l.* is mainly for materials, mounting boards, &c., for the art work rooms. The other carriage expense, including packing cases, vans, &c., is charged to H. 9, by arrangement with the Treasury in 1894, and the increased amount is due mainly to the work of carriage of cases of casts, &c., for the higher art examinations, and the museum van service. That for the Bethnal Green Museum is particularly heavy also, in view of the necessity of renewal and maintenance of vans for circulation. The largest amount is for this provision of packing cases for the art examinations. We now send to all the art schools, wherever these art examinations are held, a fresh cast or casts every year for the examination, so that they may all draw from the same cast, and that it may be a clean and undamaged cast, and that cast is left at the school afterwards for their own use. Some schools get a number of casts. The principal increase is due to that.

As to Question 217, "superintendent of exhibitions, publications, photographs, &c.," that service was carried out by the late Mr. Joseph Cundall until 1881, at a fee of 1*l.* per day. The estimates for that and preceding years show that 300*l.* was taken annually for this service. Among the duties was the responsibility for the safety of the department's photographic negatives then in the custody of the Permanent Printing Company for the supply of positives to the public. By Board minute of 1881, Mr. J. H. Cundall succeeded Mr. J. Cundall, in regard to the negatives and issue of positives to the public, at a fee of 100*l.* per annum. By a Board minute of 14th December 1891, the department resumed possession of its negatives, and placed them in the charge of the store keeper. The then official photographer was assigned to assist him in the examination and care of the negatives, at the rate of 1*l.* per attendance, with a maximum of 100 attendances during the financial year.

As to Questions 248 and 257, abstract 5, in the 44th Annual Report, page 295, and the question of the expenditure for five years, I have here the returns. I think the point was that the sums, taken for instance under "paintings in oil and water colour and other drawings," did not correspond with the estimate of the historical collection of oil and water colours. There are two reasons why it cannot correspond. One is that the year in the Estimates is from the 1st April to the 31st March, and the other is that in this report the year is from the 1st January to the 31st December. Further, this abstract is not put

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

in the wording or form of the estimate at all; this is an abstract of the cost of objects purchased for the art collections, and they are divided up into a great number of heads for the use of people who want to see how much has been spent on different parts of the museum. Thus you see "sculpture in marble, mosaics in stone, metal work," all these are separated up, and thus in the paintings in oil and water colours are included, not only what are bought under the heading of historical paintings in oil and water colour, but any other water colours that are made, as for instance, copies of works of art in the museum, large numbers of which are made for circulation, and those are included in that abstract. Thus you have, in 1892, an amount spent on the historical collection of water colours of 1,638*l.* 10*s.*; copies of works of art in water colours and some paintings in oil 357*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* I will read this or hand it in, as you wish.

*Chairman*.

468. Are you quoting from the report of that year?—I am quoting from the way the abstract was made up. In 1893 the payment for the historical collection of water colours, the payment made out of that sub-head was 395*l.* 4*s.*; copies of works of art and water colours, 370*l.* 8*s.* 7*d.* That made in the first year 1,995*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, and in the second year 765*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

Lord *Balcarres*.

469. When you say in the year 1893, do you mean the financial year 1893-4 or the Science and Art Department year?—I was speaking of the calendar year. In 1894 the historical collection of water colours was 943*l.* 17*s.*; copies of works of art in water colours, and so on, and ditto in oil, 917*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*, making a total of 1,861*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* In 1895 the historical collection of water colours amounted to 1,060*l.* 6*s.*, and the copies of works of art in water colours, 335*l.* 9*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of 1,395*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* In 1896 the amount spent on the historical collection of water colours was 1,435*l.* 14*s.*, copies of works of art in water colours, 804*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; making a total of 2,240*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* You see when you are dealing thus with the calendar year the amount which appears will not correspond at all with the estimate amount, because it depends on the period of the year in which it is made. It may happen to be that two large purchases are made, one at the beginning and the other at the end of the calendar year.

470. I presume that the overlapping in the five years we have been dealing with only amounts to three months?—I do not follow.

*Chairman*.

471. The figures that appear in page 295 are the actual amounts paid, but the figures in the estimates do not necessarily correspond?—If you deal with the historical collection of water colours alone in one year, in 1893 I think it was, or 1894, I forget which, there was considerably less spent than the amount voted, and I do not know that there was any year in which it was exceeded except, possibly, in 1896 or 1897, when it was exceeded by 100*l.* Of course, if you total up the sums I have given you under



29 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

"Historical Collection of Water Colours" for those five years it ought to come to something very near the amount in the Estimates, but not necessarily the same.

*Mr. Ernest Gray.*

472. What is the difference?—I do not know; I have not taken it out. I can give you, if you like, the corresponding figures. The Comptroller and Auditor General has certified the expenditure. If you want to see how much was spent each year you have only to look at the Appropriation Account as certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General under those sub-heads. If I had known you wanted it I would have brought the report down for those five years.

Then, as to Question 302, the Indian and other photographs, when I went back I sent this memorandum to Mr. Clarke: "With reference to Lord Balcarras' question on the 22nd June, and the information you gave me as to the payments made for the catalogue of the Oriental photographs, please let me know if any writer, boy clerk, or attendant was taken on for this special work and discharged when it was over; (2) if so, when he was taken on, and how much he was paid; (3) what assistance in the nature of clerical work Messrs. Pollen, Laskey, and Sketchley received from the regular staff, when this assistance was given, and how much it cost"; and the answer was: "A temporary boy attendant was taken on when Mr. Pollen's work commenced in March last year, and a vacancy having occurred in the permanent staff he was appointed to it in August; he was paid at the rate of 4*d.* an hour. No assistance was rendered by any member of the permanent staff to Mr. Pollen beyond handing him the photographs he required." As I understood Lord Balcarras' question, it was to the effect that we had employed a boy clerk, and that his expenses had not been put in, whereas it was this boy attendant who simply did the fetching and carrying of photographs.

As to Questions 423 to 431, the clerk of accounts reports that no payments have been made since July 1895 to Mr. Julian Marshall for work done on the National Portrait Catalogue. The only payments made to him since that date have been four, namely, 9th January 1896, 69*l.* 6*s.*; 31st March 1896, 29*l.* 8*s.*; 2nd July 1896, 58*l.* 16*s.*; and 8th August 1896, 16*l.* 16*s.*; and the vouchers state that they were for writing descriptions of the foreign portraits in the print collection of the National Art Library. The first three are initialled by Mr. Weale and the last one by Mr. Palmer. Then the number of slips of foreign portraits written by Mr. Julian Marshall was 1,123, I have the full return here of all the payments made from 1892 up to date if any further information is required.

*Lord Balcarras.*

473. If you refer to Question 444 you will find I did not ask for the number of slips; I asked for a statement of the number of foreign portraits of which he has completed the catalogue; that is not the same thing of course, because slips include cross references?—You may have two or three portraits of the same person, two or three different engravings, but as far as I know the slips are each for a different portrait.

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*Lord Balcarras—continued.*

474. Are there not cross references in this catalogue as there were in the last catalogue; there must be. Will you please ascertain the number of prints or portraits of which a catalogue has been finished?—Would it not be as well if I got those returns I have got to make in writing; I will do my best to carry out your wishes exactly, but it always appears as if something has been omitted. That is all the answer so far as I know that was asked for; I do not know whether there was any other point in it, but here are the whole payments, and if you like I will put them in.

475. I might make my meaning clear to you if I put it in this way; how many prints of foreign portraits have been completely catalogued?—I will find that out. I think I have now handed in all the particulars wanted so far as I am aware.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

476. With regard to the answer supplied by General Festing with regard to my Questions 120 and 121, I have to say that I am absolutely satisfied, and that I was clearly misinformed when I put the question. I just want to ask two or three questions only to clear up this point about the equation of the amounts as presented in the Estimates and in the Appropriation Account. I understood you to say that it was impossible to equate several items under the sub-heads as a matter of account, and that it would be impossible, because there must be a certain mixture, the men being employed first in one department and then in the other; but now are vouchers insisted upon by the Comptroller General for the specific heads under the subsection, or for the whole amount under the subsection? I merely want to know how far he controls matters, that is all. Take 349 in the Appropriation Account, if you have it there; take H. 5?—Very well. The instructions of Parliament are that these are the sub-heads under which this vote will be accounted for by the Department of Science and Art, when passed by Parliament; that is the instruction at the head of the Estimates. H. 5 is a sub-head; "Bethnal Green Museum," "Royal College of Science," "Royal College of Art," are not sub-heads, and therefore we have to put in an Appropriation Account, showing how the money is spent under H. 5, and not how it is spent under "Bethnal Green," "College of Science in London," or "College of Art in London," and amongst the vouchers that are sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General are vouchers under H. 5 and not under each of these separate items. Sometimes the vouchers may show it, because it may have a heading, but that is not what is required, and the accounts are not kept separately under each of those heads.

477. What I mean is this, in effect: that if you take the estimate for the Bethnal Green Museum under the Sub-head H. 5—?—That is exactly where the fallacy comes in; we do not take an estimate for Bethnal Green for 500*l.*; we do not take an estimate of the total of 5,600*l.*, as you will see in the column of the estimate for furniture materials, &c., and fitting up objects. That is to say, for the whole of the South Kensington Museum, the colleges, and Bethnal Green;

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29 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

Green; that is what we take. This is simply an explanatory matter which might just as well be left out, and is simply to explain to Parliament how such an amount is required, and how much probably will be allocated to those different institutions.

478. That is exactly as I understand it; you see the way in which I wish to put it is this: that in the Estimates as presented to Parliament there is an estimated expenditure upon each of those several items which is put in this first column here; when you come to appropriate those different sums you put in the Appropriation Account the total, but what I want really to get at is this: that if opposite the Bethnal Green Museum you put the sum of 1,100*l.*, as there is here put, is there any reason of any kind why the whole of that 1,100*l.* should not be spent on the Royal College of Science, London; so long as it is spent under heading H. 5 the Comptroller General is perfectly satisfied. That is what I mean. Is there any reason of any kind why the Estimate of 1,100*l.* for the Bethnal Green Museum for any one year should not be spent on the Royal College of Science for the same year under that same sub-head, and the Comptroller General would be quite satisfied if he got the appropriation for the whole amount?—It is no business of his to inquire into that. The present estimate for Bethnal Green is 500*l.*

479. I am referring to page 349 of the Estimates for 1896-97?—That is so throughout the Estimates, not only in this department, but in every other department; it shows how it is made up, and you will see some enormous sums made up in that way, which are not differentiated into the small items, which would only cause an immense additional expenditure, and would not do any good.

*Chairman.*

480. Does that rest with you or with the Comptroller and Auditor General?—No, the form of the estimate is settled by the Treasury, and it is taken under those sub-heads.

*Sir Henry Howorth*

481. I merely wanted to know what the practice was as regards the vouchers insisted on by the Comptroller General, and I am quite satisfied of that. There would be no guarantee of any kind to Parliament that the estimated expenditure put into the Estimates of 1,100*l.* for Bethnal Green had been spent on that museum?—Supposing those items were struck out, which might very easily be done, there would be no guarantee. It is only giving too much information; that is really what it comes to.

482. Now I want to ask you a question on another matter entirely. Has it been brought to your attention that there have been certain answers given by the first Commissioner of Works in the House of Commons, and that he has stated that it is contemplated to move portions of the Science Museum to the other side of Exhibition-road?—Yes.

483. Have you been consulted at all in regard to that movement?—Well, I think it is rather a difficult question to put to me.

484. Do not answer it if you think it improper?—I am asked if I have been consulted, and that

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

is rather a difficult question for me to give any answer to, because it may refer to personal and confidential communications which pass between me and my chief.

485. There is another question; possibly you may have the same good reason for not answering it: In your opinion is it a wise or unwise thing to move the Science Museum to the other side of the road? Do you feel disposed to answer that?—No, I think I had better not.

*Mr. Woodall.*

486. I happened to see a strong opinion expressed by you last year as to the inexpediency of separating the Science Museum from the science teaching?—I have expressed very strong opinions on these points, but as the Government has taken certain action in the matter, I do not think I should be justified even in repeating my old opinions on the subject. May I add that a Committee has been appointed, I think it has been announced in the newspapers, which is considering the question of museum space at the present moment.

*Mr. Ernest Gray.*

487. A Departmental Committee?—Yes, of the Office of Works and the Science and Art Department. I am not a member of the Committee.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.*

488. Could you tell who are the members?—Yes, I do not think there is any objection. Mr. Brett, Sir John Taylor, Mr. Aston Webb, General Festing, and Mr. Purdon Clarke.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

489. Do you consider that in the space that is cleared and will be available on the east side of Exhibition-road there would be room and accommodation for the two museums and for proper expansion?—It is a question of space, and whether I think there will be sufficient space, I think I may fairly answer I do not think there will be; I think it will be found when the matter is gone into that there will not be sufficient space.

*Mr. Ernest Gray.*

490. You are bearing in mind the additional space which will be provided by the abolition of the residences?—Yes, that is very small.

491. The whole of the land that is available on that side of the road?—Yes, Mr. Aston Webb's design, which is in the Tea Room of the House of Commons, I think, and of which there are copies at South Kensington, practically cover all the ground except a little slip of garden in front, and, of course, the throwing in of the residences is a mere fleabite.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

492. What proportion of the present ground is occupied not by residences, but by that portion of the staff which may possibly be transferred to Whitehall; how much increased accommodation would there be if that was taken into consideration also; would it be one-third of the space?—I do not know what portion of the staff is to be transferred to Whitehall, and if, as is suggested, some of the superior staff is transferred to



29 March 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

to Whitehall, there will either have to be rooms kept for them to do their work in at South Kensington, or somebody else will have to be appointed to do the work at South Kensington itself. I do not think much space will be gained by any possible transfer that you can make to Whitehall, because I cannot conceive that you would transfer all the work connected with examination of drawings and that kind of work to Whitehall.

493. Do you consider that the last plans that were made, the revised plans of Mr. Aston Webb, with little alteration, would substantially accommodate themselves to the proposed changes, or would there need to be an entire reconstruction of those plans?—What proposed changes?

494. The changes I refer to are the possible transfer of the science collections to the other side of Exhibition-road, and also the taking out of the building that portion of the staff which would go to Whitehall?—I think there is some misapprehension; Mr. Aston Webb's plans were prepared simply for providing for the art collections on the east of Exhibition-road; they did not contemplate bringing any of the science collections from the west of Exhibition-road to the east of Exhibition-road; they never contemplated bringing the oriental collections, the Indian and other oriental art collections, from the west of Exhibition-road to the east of Exhibition-road. As to the office accommodation under Mr. Aston Webb's designs, office accommodation, if provided, would be largely insufficient at the present moment for the office needs of the department; if the department remains as it is at South Kensington, then some more of the space, which was, as it were, appropriated to museum space, would have to be given to office space, and I should think that would be quite as much as would be compensated for by any movement of offices to Whitehall. You have the plans of the existing buildings, and you see the office accommodation, in fact, I may point out that we have a large quantity of office accommodation in the basement, which is a very improper place for office accommodation, for clerks to work in, and some place will be

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

required in the new building to provide those clerks with proper office accommodation.

495. What proportion of science collections would be transferred, supposing the south galleries were retained in their present position, where the machinery is, would it be one half?—I do not quite understand.

496. What I really want to know is this. We understand from Mr. Akers-Douglas that one portion of the science collection is to remain where it is; that is in what you call the south gallery, the gallery where the machinery is?—Yes.

497. It is the portion of the collections in the other part of the museum which it is proposed to transfer?—I do not know that that is so; I know nothing about it.

498. This is his statement in the House of Commons?—That would be the portion of the science collections which is in the western gallery.

499. Yes?—The southern gallery is the machinery and ship models.

500. And those are to remain?—You tell me so; I do not know.

501. I put it in that way; suppose those remain, would that be virtually one half of the exhibition space, or approximately so, on that side?—I think it would be about one half.

502. Is this portion on the south side of Institute-road used in connection with the science teaching at all, or is it used in anything like the same way and degree that the objects in the collections on the other side of the road are used?—Yes, I should think it was used very nearly, if not quite as much; for instance, the students have to go and see the machinery collections, and the mining models are used by the Professor of Mining, and the metallurgical models by the Professor of Metallurgy, and I should think they were quite as much used. They are not so much moved about as the other things, which are smaller.

[Adjourned to Friday next  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Tuesday, 29th March 1898.*

*Major-General Sir John Donnelly, K.C.B.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

5.

### Select Committee on *Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

*Friday, 1st April 1898.*

[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]



*Friday 1st April 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.

Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Major-General Sir JOHN DONNELLY, K.C.B., called in ; and further Examined.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

503. WE stopped the other day, when we were discussing the question of these buildings, and I think the Committee are fairly of one mind, that now that the matter is more or less being discussed in a non-polemical way with the Board of Works, if we could get from the officials of the department something like a notion of their view as to what changes were desirable and what were not desirable, if you felt yourself in a position to give a reply, it would be of great assistance to us all?—What changes were desirable, in what respect? With regard to buildings, I gather?

504. Yes?—

*Mr. Woodall.*

505. Might I suggest that the question should be, what should be the general principles for the best arrangement, in the interest of the public, of the collections, and whether there is any cardinal or fundamental principle which in your mind should govern the re-arrangement?—That is rather an awkward question for me to develop my views on at the present moment, because certain proposals have been made, and as I informed the Committee on the last occasion, a Committee consisting of officers from the Science and Art Department and from the Board of Works, had been appointed to look into certain portions of these proposals, and they have not yet made any definite report. My own views, as far as I ever had an opportunity of expressing them before these further proposals came on, have been given in evidence before, and I really do not think it would be quite proper on my part to volunteer any statement now which may or may not strongly conflict with the views that the present proposals of the Treasury and the Office of Works bear on their face.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

506. I think I may say fairly now that there is no friction of any kind, and we had an answer given in the House of Commons by Mr. Akers Douglas, which was extremely friendly to any policy this Committee might recommend; and under those

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

circumstances we feel you would be compromising nobody; you could compromise the decision of nobody, if you were to tell the Committee what, in your view, as an official of that museum, you thought would be a prudent and a wise thing to do in the way of change. The evidence will not, of course, be printed and published until after the Departmental Committee has long reported, and we thought it might be of some service to us if we could have your view?—I can, perhaps, answer the question in this way. I am trying to have the precise answers I gave on the subject looked up, but I remember pretty clearly that I stated that in my opinion the decisions that had already been arrived at, that the science collections should be on one side of Exhibition-road, on the west side of Exhibition-road, and the art collections on the east side, formed the proper solution of the building question at South Kensington, and I know of no reason to change my opinion now. The question Lord Balcarras has just put in my hand is Question 489. That was on the last occasion I was here. What was in my mind at the time, rather, was some of the evidence I gave in the early days of the Committee; it is being looked up, and before I leave the room I shall probably be able to give the reference.

*Mr. Ernest Gray.*

507. May I ask whether you had in your mind, when giving that evidence in the earlier days of this Committee, the proposal which is now well established to remove the residences, and to place other land on the eastern side of the road at the disposal of the museum?—I do not think the removal of the residences really affects the question; it gives some very small additional space, but it does not affect the broad question of the better administration of the museums.

508. May I remind you that Mr. Akers Douglas, in replying to me the other day in the House, said that by the removal of the residences, and by the removal of the Secretarial Offices to Whitehall, the Government found that they would have at their disposal a much larger space than



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.*

than had previously been contemplated, and hence, they felt they would be able to put both the science and art collections on the one side of the road. Do you think that the space that will thus be provided will be sufficient for the whole of the collection on the one side of the road?—No, I do not think so, and that was my reason for saying that I saw no reason for changing the opinion I had already given on the subject.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

509. You, in fact, said in answer to one of my questions the other day, that you thought the removal of the residences, and the additional space that would be acquired by the removal of some of the officials down to Whitehall, would not substantially be so large a space that it would alter your opinion on the main principle?—That is so.

*Mr. Ernest Gray.*

510. Although the galleries on the western side of the road may be retained, I understand Mr. Akers Douglas to say they do not propose parting with the galleries on the western side of the road; they propose still using them?—Yes, so I understand.

511. And even then the space will not be sufficient. Using those galleries on the western side, and devoting the whole space on the eastern side, you still think we ought to have more space for the museum?—Then we go back to the question of dividing the science collections on both sides of the road, which seems to me objectionable. If you maintain the galleries on the western side, you really make the objection still stronger.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

512. You see you contemplate, no doubt, that the museum will increase; do you suppose that, taking the hypothetical requirements of the museum 10 or 20 years hence, in view of that alone it would be wise to consolidate the two collections on one side of the road?—Certainly it would not be wise.

513. Will you put in those references to your former evidence presently?—If I can find them.

514. Supposing that the collections remain as they are at present, that is, the scientific collections on the one side of the road and the art collections on the other, have you considered the sort of building that it would be advisable to have for the science collections?—Yes; some years ago the professors of the College of Science were asked to make a statement of what they required, and they gave a kind of rough block plans; the block plans contemplated the establishment of the new chemical and the new physical laboratories on the west side of Exhibition-road. They were surrounding the court or courts in which the apparatus of various portions of the science collections which referred to physics and chemistry should be exhibited to the public, and should be usable by the professors by bringing them into the class rooms. That is of course done now to a very large extent, but it entails very often bringing objects from the end of the western gallery down to the science museum building, which is on the east side of the Exhibition-road, and that travelling

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*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

backwards and forwards is not a very good thing for models and objects of that kind. Then the scheme, which was really organised with the London University, was that in connection with these laboratories there should be examination laboratories which should be usable by the College of Science under the Science and Art Department for our own honours examinations, and usable by the London University, who are very hard pressed for laboratory accommodation for examinations now in Burlington House, and also, I believe, by the Civil Service Commissioners. That contemplated a block of buildings on the west side of Exhibition-road, leaving a very large amount of the present space there unoccupied at the present time. When the chemistry and physics were transferred to the west side of Exhibition-road, and properly provided for there, it was considered that the existing building on the east side of Exhibition-road would be sufficient or nearly sufficient as it remains there for the other courses of the college; the biology, geology, and mechanics.

515. Have you a block plan more or less showing roughly the kind of arrangement suggested on this occasion. Is there such a block plan in existence?—Yes, that block plan which was made by the professors was furnished to the Office of Works, and I have been informed that they got out a design for carrying this project into execution, but I have not seen that design.

516. Would there be any objection to putting that in?—That you must ask the Office of Works.

517. It has passed out of your hands entirely?—Yes, we made that, as it were, requisition on the Office of Works to carry out this scheme, and as I have been told, and I have no doubt it is a fact, a more detailed plan has been prepared by the Office of Works for that purpose.

518. What was the date, do you remember?—I think we sent in the block plans that I am speaking of, which also contemplated the new solar physics observatories for Sir Norman Lockyer, my recollection is three or four years ago.

519. So far as you know does that block plan represent the present views of the professors at this moment?—I think so; you will have Professor Judd here, who will answer for that.

520. Was it more than a ground plan or an elevation; did you suggest an elevation?—This block thing that was sent in merely showed what kind of laboratory accommodation was required, and how, in a rough way, it might be provided; that is to say, so many floors of laboratory and class rooms, and so on.

521. What I was rather driving at was not the architectural plan, but whether you could tell us whether your plan contemplated one storey or two stories, or three; the sort of building in that way?—This block of buildings I am speaking of, which would come exactly opposite the Science College on the west side of Exhibition-road, I think, contemplated three stories, I am not sure; two, and possibly three stories in parts; but, broadly speaking, I should say two stories, besides a highish basement.

522. And any residences of any kind?—No.

523. Would you have such a building without any



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

any residences in it at all; in your view, would that be wise?—My view is that no buildings of that kind should be left without residences.

524. Your practical view is that no such buildings should be without residences?—In the immediate neighbourhood.

Lord Balcarres.

525. For the higher officials?—For somebody who could take charge during the time they are really open to the public, and at night when everybody is away, just as they are at the British Museum.

Sir Henry Howorth.

526. What number of hours would you think reasonable to meet your wish in this respect; how many of the staff should be there?—I think you ought to have four at least, because you must remember that one of those officers is on duty, as it were, day and night; he cannot leave that place. Then when you come to holidays, and cases of sickness, the pressure on the men who are in residence becomes very severe in certain times of the year.

527. What number of residences are there at this moment?—Four.

528. What number of departments do you consider there are on the scientific side; under the dean, what number of actual departments do you say there are?—In the College of Science?

529. Yes?—You see at page 36, in Roman letters of the calendar, the subjects taught in the school are mechanics and mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, including zoology, and botany, geology and mineralogy, agriculture (you may drop that out), metallurgy and assaying, mining, elements of astronomical physics, practical geometry, mechanical and freehand drawing. The wider sub-divisions you will see on the next page, in the third paragraph, "The associateship of the Royal College of Science is given in one or more of the following divisions: I. Mechanics; II. Physics; III. Chemistry; IV. Biology; V. Geology; VI. Agriculture; and the associateship of the Royal School of Mines in Metallurgy and Mining." So that those are the big divisions of the school.

530. Well, now, I want rather to press you—it is going back to the earlier part of our examination—the museum, the main and chief museum, for illustrating the metallurgical and geological teaching, is really, I suppose, in Jermyn-street?—Well, it was; but a good deal of it has got transplanted to South Kensington; practically, all the metallurgical, and a considerable proportion of the mining models, and Professor Judd has now a fair teaching collection, I believe, of geology; that he can speak for himself, as I believe he is going to give evidence; but, of course, there is no doubt that there is what you may call a cognate museum in Jermyn-street, and it was suggested at one time it should be removed to South Kensington, and that the sale of the building in Jermyn-street would contribute largely to the erection of a building at South Kensington.

531. I think you said, in reply to one of my questions in the early part of this Inquiry, that in your view you saw no good reason why that

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

transfer should not be made; why the Jermyn-street Museum should not be removed to South Kensington?—I think it would be most desirable, and I think it especially desirable in the question of the science library. They have a very valuable science library in Jermyn-street, and although, no doubt, we have transferred a considerable quantity of books which do not apply strictly to what comes under the Jermyn-street Museum, yet you know that when you take the heading of "Geology" that covers a very wide field, and therefore there is left in Jermyn-street a very large collection of books which would be of great value at South Kensington, and which we really have, to some extent, to duplicate.

532. And as a matter of fact, I suppose, when the Jermyn-street Museum was founded, a very large portion of the teaching connected with metallurgy and the School of Mines was conducted in close proximity to that museum, and that has since been moved; is that not so?—Yes; well, move chemistry. It was very early found they could not teach chemistry properly in the Jermyn-street place, and then the College of Chemistry, in Oxford-street, which had been built by private subscriptions, was transferred to the Government, and the chemical instruction was given in Oxford-street. Then the institution in Oxford-street got too small for its requirements, and that was moved to South Kensington, when that big building was made which is now used for the College of Science. You must remember that at the time the Jermyn-street Museum was built, the teaching of science was a very different business to what it is now. The only subjects in which there was practical instruction in the old School of Mines was chemistry in Jermyn-street and metallurgy in Dr. Percy's laboratory, in Jermyn-street itself. There was no practical teaching in any other subject, and it was because it was impossible to provide any room for practical teaching, and because the scientific teaching, without practical teaching, was considered to be nearly valueless, the professors of the School of Mines all memorialised to be transferred to South Kensington, where proper laboratory accommodation could be provided for them. And, of course, as years go by what was considered very good laboratory accommodation then is considered very wretched and insufficient at present.

533. Suppose it should be the opinion of this Committee that it would be wise to transfer this Jermyn-street Museum to South Kensington, that transfer was not contemplated when the draft plans you have referred to just now were sent to the Board of Works; that was not part of the scheme you had in view then at all?—No, but I should say a few years ago, when there was the question of taking those east and west galleries, I cannot remember exactly what was the absolute occasion that caused the consideration of the question, but the Treasury did then propose to move the Jermyn-street Museum and find accommodation for it in what is known as cross gallery; but it was found. I rather think I put in some paper on it, but I cannot remember; that there was not sufficient room, otherwise it would have been moved then.

534. Would there be any objection to putting in the correspondence that took place with the Treasury



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

Treasury on that subject, and any minutes you may have on the subject. It would be a very great assistance to us?—Subject to showing the papers to the Vice-President, I do not know of any objection.

*Sir John Gorst.*

535. You could show the correspondence; but hardly the minutes?—

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

536. Subject to the Vice-President's revision?—You do not mean the official memoranda, but the letters to and from the Treasury on the subject?

537. That is so?—Of course I cannot do that without first submitting the matter.

538. We take that for granted; that it would be with the consent of the Vice-President?—Mr. Bailey has just found my previous references to this matter. I have not had time to read them, but you will find them at Questions 488, 489, 490, and 491 in the Blue Book, about the building on the east and west side of Exhibition-road.

539. Is the geological survey in any sense under your department?—Yes, it is under the department; the Vice-President takes the vote for it and Sir Archibald Geikie's report goes into the annual report, and it appears in our estimates.

540. Do their accounts pass through your own office?—Yes, I am the accounting officer for it.

541. Mr. Woodall asks if there is any connection between the geological survey and the ordnance survey; the ordnance survey is entirely out of your department?—Yes, of course the connection is that the ordnance survey makes the maps for the geological survey. You will see the whole account of the geological survey at page 72, Roman letters, of the calendar of the department, and what it is doing at the present time. Then follows the account of the Museum of Practical Geology.

542. Of course, as you are aware, the offices of the Geological Survey, in Jermyn-street, are very inadequate in accommodation?—They are principally in a hired house next door.

543. Would it be wise, in your opinion, that the whole of the Geological Survey should be transferred at the same time as the museum to South Kensington?—I should say, certainly; otherwise you would have to leave the library there, and the museum is, to some extent—I do not know how far, I am not sufficiently technically acquainted with the matter, but to some extent no doubt the Geological Museum is, as it were, their working reference library.

544. I only want to make it quite clear that in the proposal, if carried out, it would involve the transfer both of the Geological Survey and also of the museum?—Yes.

545. Now, suppose the Geological Survey was removed to South Kensington, where would you propose to house it; would you make it a part of this building?—Not of that particular block I was speaking of; that block was for the purposes of the chemistry and physics, and also there was a piece provided for astronomical physics; but that does not cover more than what, I suppose, is one-third, or a little more, of the ground south of Imperial Institute-road,  
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*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

and there would, of course, on the remaining portion of the ground, be plenty of room to accommodate the Geological Museum.

546. Of course, as you are aware, the Jermyn-street collections, in addition to the great collection that has been made by geological surveyors, also contain large collections of applied science, illustrating metallurgy, pottery, and different methods of applied science. Now, would you propose to house them together, as they are now housed together, or to distribute them, if they were moved to South Kensington?—Well, you see, we have a large collection at South Kensington; a considerable collection of metallurgical models, which have been removed from Jermyn-street, and the remaining models in Jermyn-street would form a section with them. In the same way with the mining models; any mining models would be added to that portion of the science collection.

547. I was not quite thinking of the models, I was rather thinking of the very large series of objects shown in cases, showing the raw materials and manufactured products in juxtaposition, and more or less illustrating the application of metallurgy in that way; you have a very large collection illustrating that; would you combine them all on your side?—Of course, this is a matter rather in the dim future, and has never been gone into carefully; but I should say they would either fall into some of the sections that are now represented on the west of Exhibition-road, or else you would have, as it were, to open a new section for them. The only portion that there might be any question about seems to me the enamels and pottery; whether that would better go with the art collections, or whether it should be treated as it is at present, as a purely industrial collection, as a technical industrial collection, I think we may leave to be settled afterwards.

548. The real thing I have in my mind is this: In the view of a good many of us we do not need two great geological museums in this country. Of course, you need a small geological collection to illustrate the geological teaching in your schools; but the great mass of the collection in Jermyn-street forms a magnificent and the only great collection illustrating English geology, and, in the view of some of us, it would be well to condense that part of the collection with the collection already in the Natural History Museum at Kensington, and make it one great continuous collection, illustrating not only palæontology, which is illustrated now, but also geology. Now when I talked about the separation of these collections, I had rather in view that the Geological Museum proper should form a continuous collection with that in the Natural History Museum, and that the portions of the Jermyn-street collection which are distinctly applicable to teaching directly should be separated from it and housed in your own building. This is a very long explanation, but in view of that what would be your view?—As I understand it, the collection in Jermyn-street is to illustrate the Stratigraphical Geology of these British Isles. The collection in the British Museum is the general geology of the world and treated from the palæontological side. I believe they have recently copied Jermyn-street, if I  
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1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

may say so without offence, to some extent, but I think that nevertheless it would be a very great mistake to jam those two collections together. They treat the matter from different points of view, and if Jermyn-street was brought down there you would really, without destroying its present usefulness, have it so close to the Natural History Museum that a person could go from one side to the other, and he would see geology treated from the two different points of view. I think it would be a great mistake myself to break up that collection and sort it out amongst other collections. It has been made, and books have been written on those particular specimens, and those particular numbered specimens are referred to in those books, and I think you would only produce confusion by combining them.

549. I am not sure this is a proper question, but in view of your own expressed views about the policy of this removal which I think are in sympathy with those of some members of this Committee, would you bring the matter of this transfer before your Departmental Committee which is now discussing the housing of these collections, and treat that as part of your contemplated scheme. It would come better from you than from anybody else, as you are the chief executive officer of the whole collection?—I will submit the point to my official chiefs, that it was suggested at this Committee. I do not instruct this Committee, and therefore I cannot instruct them on this point. I do not see why I should not represent to the Lord President (I do not think I need to the Vice-President, as he is here), that it has been suggested by this Committee that the Departmental Committee should consider this question.

550. You see I am not raising any question of principle of any kind; I take it there is some agreement among us, it is simply a question that if this Departmental Committee is to report on the best means of housing the collections and staff, this possibility should be one of the possibilities they have in view, because it is not a remote one, and I should be rather pleased if you could bring the matter before them?—I can undertake to bring the matter officially before the heads of the department.

551. Well, now there is just one part of this new museum which would have to be detached I presume, which would not be condensed in the main building, and that is Sir Norman Lockyer's part, that requires an observatory?—Yes.

552. That would have to be a detached building, would it not?—Yes; I do not quite remember how the block plans provided for it, but it was somewhere close to the chemical and physical laboratories.

553. Now in view of the discussion we had some time ago about the advantage of putting those instruments of Sir Norman Lockyer's on ground not subject to continual tremors and shaking, have you contemplated whether on the particular site you have in view for this museum the ground is such that it would be possible to put down those delicate astronomical instruments with safety and prudence. There is the Underground Railway there?—That is rather a matter for Sir Norman Lockyer, but as a matter of fact there they are, and there they have been

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

doing very good work, and I think he is quite satisfied that he can carry on his work in future on that site.

554. Then you contemplate—that is rather the point I had in view—that when these buildings are rebuilt they will be on the site in which Sir Norman Lockyer's present observatory is placed?—Certainly; that is the only possible place.

555. Is there room for that?—Yes, for what he wants, I think. You see in certain ways, no doubt, an observatory of that kind would be better in the country, but, on the other hand, you are in close connection with the college; you use it for the teaching of students, and you also have the advantage of the chemical and physical laboratories, and their rooms for experimental purposes, and you have also the advantage of the library.

556. My question was really due to my ignorance; I thought that possibly the site on which the building was to be placed was not the site on which the instruments are now, because there was a great discussion about tremors from the Underground Railway, and other causes; to go to the east side of the roadway, can you tell us when Mr. Aston Webb's plans were prepared whether the officers who have charge of the exhibition of objects were consulted about the kind of rooms, and the sort of light, and the kind of building that would be most advisable to put upon the ground, or were Mr. Aston Webb's plans architect's plans alone?—My recollection of the matter is, that we were asked broadly what amount and what kind of accommodation was required for different branches of the museum, and that formed the basis of the conditions that were put out for competition, and then the various architects (seven, I think, or five) tried to meet our wants, or what we believed to be our wants, in the best way they could on that particular piece of ground, and I think Mr. Aston Webb's designs were selected, I do not say mainly, but very largely, from the point of view of their providing the museum accommodation certainly as well, if not better, than the other competing designs provided for it. There was a committee of selection appointed, but the Director of the Art Museum, and two or three other people besides myself were asked to look at these plans before the final selection was made, and to give our opinion on these different plans, and I think we came to the conclusion that the plans were as good as we were likely to get, and that they really did do what we wanted them to do, and then, after that, there were certain points which we thought might be improved, and Mr. Aston Webb at once fell in with the matter, and made certain alterations to meet the views of the officers of the Science and Art Department. I think the plans (I am not speaking of the outside now) are as good as you are likely to get.

557. I am not complaining at all, I think them admirable; the point I was rather going to put is this, that since those plans were drawn, the theory of exhibiting objects in art museums, at all events so far as Continental museums are concerned, has somewhat altered?—That is the case with all those theories; they are always altering.

558. But



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

558. But sometimes they alter for the better and sometimes they alter for the worse; the theory which prevails now is, that it is better to have a large series of fairly small rooms in which you can classify your objects, both in regard to date and character, and also show different periods of art rather than a series of very large halls and rooms in which it is not quite so possible to classify your objects. This being the modern theory, have your staff been consulted, or are they likely to be consulted, not about the elevation, but simply about the ground plan and the kind of exhibition rooms that will be put in this new building?—Are you speaking of the Webb building or of the new building?

559. Of the new building?—May I put it in this way: are you assuming that the Webb designs are put on one side and that we are going to start afresh and be consulted on a fresh scheme?

560. That is what we were told in the House of Commons the other day by the Board of Works, that they contemplated starting *de novo* very largely?—Perhaps I may go back; you see that theory is absolutely unworkable in our case; it is all very well if there was a big collection made, and if you knew exactly how many objects there were in each class you might build special rooms for those, and I think it would be very desirable if you could do so, and show furniture and appurtenances all collected together in their specific rooms, but when you have a museum forming, you really do not know how big or extensive one class will be in relation to another; and further you must remember that if you have a lot of small rooms you make the watching very much more difficult and expensive. I believe that we have got as good kinds of exhibiting space at South Kensington as you will find anywhere for any practical purposes, that is to say, galleries round courts.

561. I think they are admirable, but there remains the fact that in the newer museums on the Continent, Amsterdam, the Rosenberg Museum in Denmark, and the great museum in Vienna, the newer theory I have mentioned is followed?—They are not adding to them, are they?

562. Yes, the great museum in Vienna is increasing enormously, and also in Berlin, too, the scheme that is now popular with the greater of these great collections is that if possible you should illustrate the art of each period in a separate room or a separate gallery, and if you could have a series illustrating the reign of Louis XIV., and another that of Louis Quinze, and a third one of Louis Seize, it is better than having enormous rooms filled with a general collection of furniture, or a general collection of sculpture, or a general collection of enamels?—There is one consideration, that it would cost you a pretty considerable lot, and we should have to take up a good deal of ground at once for the development of the museum, and I do not know what the Treasury would say to that.

563. Putting that difficulty aside, what I rather wanted to know was this, whether the staff, Mr. Clarke and his officers, will be asked to furnish what they consider to be the best ground plan, nothing to do with the elevation which is

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Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

an architect's matter, but the best ground plan, for the arrangement of the building, and for the exhibition of the collections?—I do not know whether they will be asked, or whether I shall be asked, they have nothing to do with arranging that. If you are speaking of the plans for the future, as I told you just now the department were consulted in the past with regard to Mr. Webb's plans, but what will happen with regard to future plans I do not know.

Mr. Woodall.

564. If you were asked you would appreciate the opportunity of putting in suggestive sketch plans, would you not?—Yes, but I am afraid I should not go in for these small rooms.

Sir Henry Howorth.

565. There may be a difference of opinion about that, and I propose to call Mr. Clarke presently, and one or two other officers with regard to this matter. I want your own view about the matter, has any communication been made to you from the Board of Works about the proposed new buildings, and how far they are to be modified plans of Mr. Webb's, and how far entirely new?—No, I have had no communication; I suppose it came before this small Committee. The new plans, to whatever extent they were new plans, will be, I suppose, before this small Committee, if they have not been already before them, but as far as I know there has been no detailed scheme elaborated.

566. When was Mr. Webb's plan presented, when was it completed and presented?—In 1891.

567. Did that contemplate the completion of the whole building with the front and everything else?—Yes, on the east of Exhibition-road.

568. And it contemplated the removal of all those temporary buildings that have now been removed, did it?—Yes, it contemplated the removal of more than that.

569. And of the residences as well?—No, it did not touch the residences; the residences remained as they were, and it contemplated the completion of the building up to the road, and it also contemplated the alteration of some old galleries which were built for the Turner and Vernon collection, and which were really substantial and proper up to the first floor, but are of a temporary character above and want re-roofing; all that was contemplated.

570. In view of what you told us just now about the great convenience, if not necessity, of having at least four of the officers living in the Science Museum, what is your view about the necessity of having some of the officers also living in the Art Museum?—I beg your pardon; I meant four officers altogether as a minimum for the whole thing.

571. But I presume you would mean that some portion of them would live on the west side and some on the east side of Exhibition-road?—I do not think that matters if they have residences somewhere in the immediate neighbourhood.

572. You do not think it is advisable they should be under the roof at all?—I should say they were better under the roof, but so many people seem to have a morbid fear of fire arising in that way that perhaps it is better to have them

on



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

on the other side of the road. I do not myself believe in the danger of fire from the residences inside the museum.

573. One question about another matter. Mr. Armstrong's term of office will come to an end, I believe, in July?—No, it finished last October.

574. But it has been extended?—Yes.

575. Could you tell the Committee what, if any, changes are proposed in his department on the final retirement of Mr. Armstrong?—In case there should be any error, I should say his term of office was extended not exceeding a year.

576. I do not raise an issue about the precise time; what I was asking was whether you were in a position to tell the Committee what, if any, changes were proposed to be carried out on the retirement of Mr. Armstrong?—Nothing of the kind has been formulated at present.

577. You do not know whether the department itself will be altered, and nothing has been fixed about the person succeeding him?—That is so.

Lord Balcarras.

578. I wish to ask two or three things which remain over from questions previously raised. Can you tell me the number of foreign portraits of which the catalogue has been completed?—Yes, the total number of slips is 1,123, and the total number of foreign portraits already catalogued is 1,071.

579. One question about another matter: Could you let me know who were the examiners at the examination about which we have had Appendix No. 10?—The Civil Service examination?

580. Yes?—I have not the faintest idea.

581. We shall have to get that from the Civil Service Commission?—Yes, we know nothing about the examiners.

582. With regard to the demission of Mr. Weale there were two or three things about which you were uncertain and about which you said you would inquire further, in Question 325, as to the doubt whether the original minute of the Treasury was recalled by the Treasury or by the department.

Sir John Gorst.] I thought it was distinctly stated that the Treasury sent for that back?

Witness.] I thought I had said that.

Chairman.] Here is the answer: "(Q.) The first letter was recalled by the Treasury?—(A.) Yes. (Q.) It was recalled by the Treasury, not by the Science and Art Department?—(A.) No, not as far as my recollection goes."

Lord Balcarras.

583. And on that I now ask whether the witness has made sure as to who did recall it; there was a doubt about it?—The Treasury recalled it.

584. Further, in Question 334, you expressed a doubt as to whether there was or was not correspondence about revising the minute of extension?—Sir John Gorst asked me, "Is there any correspondence?" and I said "I do not know that there is, but I do not think it would be right to produce it, if there was any; it would be absolutely of a private character, but, as far as I was aware, no letter was written from the depart-

Lord Balcarras—continued.

ment in answer or in relation to the withdrawn letter. My recollection is that the withdrawn letter was withdrawn by the Treasury on their own initiative, although I do not know what conversations may have taken place on the subject."

585. Can you state now for certain whether there was or was not correspondence?—There was no official departmental correspondence; nothing I had anything to do with.

586. By correspondence, as I have already explained, I think, in a question I asked about that time, I connote minutes and departmental communications on paper, and so forth?—I cannot connote minutes with correspondence.

587. Then I must use a more comprehensive phrase and say, was there any correspondence or exchange of official minutes, communications on paper, and so forth?—Between the department and the Treasury before they withdrew the letter, do you mean?

588. About the minute?—All I can say is that I do not know what the Vice-President may have said to anybody, nor what the Lord President may have said to anybody; all I can answer for is that there is no official letter that I have ever seen that passed between the department to the Treasury or from the Treasury to the department on the subject between their sending the first letter and their withdrawing it.

589. I am quite satisfied, furthermore, with regard to Questions 357 and 358, as to whether there was any correspondence, official or otherwise, or documentary orders between any of the official parties between the 23rd July and August 13th, when Mr. Weale retired; can you now give any further information?—I said "No, and I think it is quite clear that there was not, because I think that letter about the gratuity refers to the first letter; there was no correspondence that I have any recollection of, and I am pretty certain there was not." I am quite certain there was not.

590. Then, again, I refer to Question 374?—In 373 you asked me, "(Q.) I will take it from you, then, that it is an error to say that the Treasury made some communication, to which the Science and Art Department did not reply?—(A.) Yes; I do not remember any communication of theirs to which we did not give any reply." By the way, perhaps I ought to have remembered that we did not give a reply to their final letter, in which they finally settled the gratuity; we did not reply to that; you have all the official correspondence in.

Mr. Woodall.

591. Their final reply did not call for further response?—Not at all; there must be an end somewhere, and it finished with the Treasury.

Lord Balcarras.

592. You said that all the correspondence is in; I think there is one thing that may have been put in (given to the writer), but which certainly has not reached us yet, and that is with reference to Question 387, where you say you will get a copy of the return with the terms and conditions of Mr. Armstrong's extension; has that been put in?—No; but it is here.

593. I



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Sir John Gorst.*

593. I allow this to be put in, but at the same time with the protest that this is absolutely irrelevant to the inquiry before the Committee; it is a correspondence between the Treasury and the Department with reference to the prolongation of Mr. Armstrong's term of office.

*Chairman.*

594. As far as I know, the prolongation of Mr. Armstrong's term has not been reported to Parliament?—I fancied I had seen in the newspapers a copy of the minute, but I may have been mistaken; I really forgot to inquire further about it.

*Sir John Gorst.*

595. I do not object to its being put in, but I wish to be understood to state that it is absolutely irrelevant to the inquiry before the Committee.

*Lord Balcarras.*

596. Are you aware that all Select Committees report at the end of the Session?—I do not know whether they always do report, but I know they terminate at the end of the Session.

597. You state that you are unaware that they always do report?—Yes, because I do not know the natural history of every Committee that has sat. I believe that they sometimes have not reported. I have it in my mind that I have heard of a Committee which did not report.

598. In the words extending the service of Mr. Weale, I think, the words "until the report of the Committee" occur, do they not?—That is in the letter, are you quoting from the letter?

599. Yes, I was for the minute?—If you will tell me to what words you refer I could, perhaps, answer the question.

600. In Question 326 the words "until after the Committee of the House of Commons has reported" occur?—That is our letter to the Treasury.

601. Do you know what the words are which are in that letter to the Treasury quoted in Question 326?—Yes.

602. In your opinion do the words "until the Committee have reported," connote, to some extent, the desirability of having the evidence of this official during the inquiry of this Committee?—Certainly.

603. Did you not tell us already that one of the reasons put forward for the extension of Mr. Armstrong's time was that he might be in a position to give evidence, official evidence, before this Committee?—Yes.

*Chairman.*

604. Were not there other reasons given?—Yes, I gave a number of other reasons.

*Lord Balcarras.*

605. Why did not Mr. Weale retire in the month of May?—Because we got an extension.

606. The Committee reported in the month of May?—No.

607. Forgive me?—They call it a preliminary report.

608. Is not that their report?—No, not as I understand it; at all events, if I committed an error in allowing him to remain after the 8th of 0.5—5.

*Lord Balcarras—continued.*

May I hope I shall not have to pay his salary for the time I allowed him to remain; but I certainly did not understand that a preliminary report meant the report of the Committee.

609. There is no such word as "preliminary" report there?—I am pretty certain it was headed "preliminary report."

610. Did you know that Mr. Weale would vacate his office at the end of the Session?—Did I know that he was to vacate his office at the end of the Session?

611. At any time before the end of the Session did you know that Mr. Weale would vacate his office at the end of the Session?—I must be careful in my answers; are you referring to the end of the last Session?

612. Yes, the end of the last Session of Parliament?—Did I know it in what way? I had before me the letter of the Treasury authorising him to remain to a certain time. Then when that time arrived I had to ask the head of the department whether he was to be retained further, and to point out that if he was to be retained further we should have to apply to the Treasury for his retention. The head of the department gave me my instructions, and I acted upon them.

613. You mean that at the end of the Session, or we will say when the Committee made its report, Mr. Weale naturally would retire, and that if there was to be any subsequent extension it would have to be approved by subsequent correspondence?—That is so, certainly.

614. What do you understand by the phrase "not exceeding one year"; does that mean that the Treasury themselves had to sanction the extension of Mr. Weale's services until March of this year subject to the approvement of the department?—No; because there was a preliminary condition to that.

615. What was that?—Until this Committee had reported.

616. Does it not occur to you, from the Treasury letter printed in the Minutes already, when the Treasury offered the department a further extension of Mr. Weale's services, that they were unaware of the construction which would be placed by the department upon the words "until the Committee shall have reported"?—I cannot answer that question; it is impossible to tell what the Treasury had in their mind.

617. Was Mr. Weale told the conditions of his extension?—I fancy so, but I am not certain. I think he was given a copy of the Treasury letter, but I really do not remember at this minute.

618. I suppose it would have been an official communication to Mr. Weale if he had been told?—Yes.

619. Perhaps you will find that out for me, and when he was told?—Yes.

620. Has Mr. Armstrong been told the terms of his extension?—I think so.

621. The conditions of his extension?—I think so; I think he has seen the letter.

*Chairman.*

622. Is there any condition?—There is a condition laid down in the Treasury letter which grants the extension.

O

623. I



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras.

623. I want to know whether Mr. Armstrong received an official communication about those conditions?—I do not know that he has received any. I do not remember writing a letter to him. I think I showed him the letter.

Chairman.

624. What do you mean by "condition"?—What I mean is that the Treasury letter sanctioned the extension of his time "up to a date not later than the 19th of October 1898."

625. Were his duties changed in any way?—No.

626. Then the only condition was the continuance of his term?—As long as the heads of the department desired to retain his services, and that he would remain. I might put it in that Mr. Armstrong was very anxious not to remain, as will be seen from that letter.

Mr. Woodall.

627. Is it not a fact that Mr. Armstrong's office is very contiguous to your own?—Yes.

628. And do not constant communications pass between you and him?—I see him every day.

629. Would it not be a natural thing, if you had a communication to make to him, that you would show him the official communication from the Treasury?—Certainly; I think it is very likely I just minuted on the Treasury letter for him to see it.

630. You would pass the paper from the one office to the other?—Yes.

Lord Balcarras.

631. I find in your evidence you say you had no right to pay Mr. Weale after the 23rd July?—That is quite clear from the Comptroller and Auditor General's queries.

632. You told us in Question 44 that certain circumstances changes this, and that you continued to pay him for some time longer?—No. You are putting the cart before the horse; I said I had no right to pay him, but I had not realised that I had no right to pay him until later. It was only when we went carefully into the matter that I found we were employing him without any right to pay him.

633. You say "In fact, owing to certain circumstances I did pay him after that date"; that is, the 23rd of July, when he ought to have retired?—Yes.

634. I want to know what those "certain circumstances" were; that is a very simple question?—The communications I was then holding with the Vice-President.

635. When the room was cleared I was asking the question of you, what were the "certain circumstances" mentioned in Question 44, which induced the department to continue the payment of Mr. Weale after the 23rd of July, the date on which he vacated his office?—The first thing was that I had to get the decision of the Vice-President and Lord President as to applying to the Treasury for the continuance of his services, and when that decision was given that his services were not to be continued, I had some communications with the Vice-President as to the date from which this should take effect, and the Vice-President was anxious to give Mr. Weale as

Lord Balcarras—continued.

long notice as we could, and he left it to me to find out a way of doing it, and I did the best I could by giving him two months' leave, and a month, I think, for clearing up his work. I thought that although I was breaking the strict letter of the rule, I should get whitewashed for it afterwards.

Chairman.

636. I may interpose a question: Have you received any further communication from the Auditor General?—My recollection is that he thinks my explanation that I put in sufficient.

Mr. Woodall.

637. Incidentally, you mentioned just now that among the certain circumstances was some kind of suggestion of a communication for a second extension of the time for which Mr. Weale's services might be continued?—No; that was afterwards.

638. It was determined by the Lord President and the Vice-President that it was not expedient to apply for a further extension of time, but they had had it under consideration as to whether it was necessary?—They had had it under consideration (the Lord President) as to whether an application should be made, and he decided that an application should not be made.

Lord Balcarras.

639. When did Mr. Weale officially terminate his services?—I think it is in a letter which has been put in.

640. Will you please refer me to it?—It is the 22nd October 1897, at the close of Question 44.

641. Mr. Weale was an official of the department until the 22nd October 1897?—Yes.

642. Did not the Comptroller and Auditor General point out that extra sums had been paid to Mr. Weale after the 23rd July? Was it the date on which he left South Kensington, namely, 13th August, or was it sometime in October that he ceased to be an official servant of the department?—No, I think I put in the terms of their query. I received a query first of all from the Audit Office on the 24th January, a query on my October account, "It is requested that the date of the Report of the Committee on the South Kensington Museum, referred to in the letter of the 2nd March 1897, may be given"; that is to say, they found I had paid Mr. Weale, and it was in my October account; the query was raised in January on my October account.

643. That means that they considered that he officially retired on the 23rd of July, does it not?—That is the inference I draw from it, that I ought to have retired him on the 23rd July.

644. They considered, in fact, that his tenure of office did end on the 23rd July?—So I understand.

645. And you continued to pay him, because you already owed him six weeks' or eight weeks' holiday?—I continued to pay him as it turns out irregularly, because the Vice-President, and I suppose everybody, was anxious to make it as easy for him as possible. If I had started him off on the 23rd of July none of these questions could have arisen, but I unfortunately did not for my sake.

646. What questions?—About the retention of his services.

647. Why



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

647. Why not?—Because they could not have arisen; there would have been an end of it. All these questions of why he was retained and why he was paid certainly could not have arisen if I had sent him away on the 23rd July, which I should have done if I had taken the strict and proper view of the case.

648. You mean if the Vice-President or the Lord President had sent him away?—No, if I had ceased his salary on that day; I am the accounting officer, and I am responsible for his salary, and not even the minute of the Vice-President and the Lord President can cover my responsibility in the matter unless I bring it formally before them in a written document, and they in a written document over-rule me.

649. And that was not done in this case?—No; as I said I irregularly continued to pay him.

650. Can you tell me, is there a keeper of the Art Library now?—Yes.

651. What is his name?—Mr. Palmer.

652. How many years service has he done?—I do not know at this moment.

653. Approximately; is it 10 years, do you know?—Yes; I fancy he has been longer than that in the department.

654. Something over 10 years?—I think so.

655. Passing from that, I want to ask about an answer you gave to me with regard to the Furniture Vote; I asked, you remember, to have the items composing a large sum extending over ten years under Vote H 5, and you told us in your opening statement on the 29th March, that it would be very tedious work to get that out?—And then it could not be done properly, not correctly, if you refer to my statement.

656. I see your statement here. I should like myself, although it may give a certain amount of work to members of your department, to have a statement as substantially correct as it is possible for you to make up?—Of what.

657. On the items for furniture, materials, etc., and fitting up objects for exhibition which is the Vote under H 5, which during the last ten years at Bethnal Green Museum has amounted in the aggregate to 6,680*l.* I want to know what proportion of the 6,680*l.* for furniture, materials, etc., is now in Bethnal Green Museum, and during these years has been made for Bethnal Green Museum?—

Sir *John Gorst*.] I am sorry to say that is information I cannot supply.

Lord *Balcarres*.

658-9. Are you aware that in Sir Henry Cole's time when the great defalcations were going on at South Kensington it was possible to recast?—I think that is rather a rough way of putting it, that defalcations were going on at South Kensington; the man in charge of the accounts went away with some money, but as the question was put it, sounded rather as if it was a continuous process going on at South Kensington.

660. I used the words "Sir Henry Cole's time" to show that it was not under your secretaryship that this occurred; when in Sir Henry Cole's time great defalcations were carried on by the clerk of the accounts, are you aware that at the instance of the Public Accounts Committee of 0.5-5.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

this House, the accounts, item by item, of the department were recast for no less a period than 13 years?—I am not aware of it, but however that might be the accounts would be recast under the sub-heads and not under items. The point in this case is that the accounts are not kept under these different items. For instance, a piece of wood is bought and part of it may go to Bethnal Green and part of it to South Kensington, but we do not keep a book showing that a foot of this plank is sent to Bethnal Green, and two feet to the Science Museum, and three feet to the Art Museum; and therefore it is impossible to differentiate it, and we are not called upon by the House of Commons or the Comptroller and Auditor General, or the Treasury, to do that, and if we did it I should have to apply for a very large increase of my staff of clerks.

Mr. *Woodall*.

661. Though you are not required by the Treasury or any other authorities to keep accounts of that kind, do you not think it would be serviceable if you knew what proportion of the Vote was actually spent at Bethnal Green?—Not more than we do now practically; we know roughly. General Festing would tell you, he knows roughly the amount taken in the estimate is about the amount spent at Bethnal Green; there is no reason to suppose otherwise, but if you were to make a return, that is quite a different affair.

662. You feel yourself in a sense responsible for expending the money voted by Parliament in something like as nearly as possible the proportion shown in the Estimates?—Yes, unquestionably; as far as you can foresee what the requirements of Bethnal Green or of South Kensington Museum, or of the Science as distinct from the Art Museum are, as far as that can be foreseen, General Festing makes his estimate, and we get that money, and of course spend it in that way, unless some unforeseen cause should render it desirable to give more money, we will say for Bethnal Green, than was taken for it, or *vice versa*, as for instance, I have no doubt when we had that special Loan Exhibition of Furniture, I think it is very possible more money was spent on Bethnal Green than was taken for fittings.

Lord *Balcarres*.

663. Do you keep annual accounts, do you keep your books containing the annual accounts?—Yes, how should I get my accounts through the auditor? The books are settled by the Treasury, and we have to render our accounts to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

664. I am afraid I have used the ambiguous word "keep." I mean, do you retain in your store-rooms the annual accounts of years which have passed by?—Yes.

665. For how many years back do they run?—I do not know.

666. Twenty years, should you think?—I do not know; I should think so; but I do not know that they do.

667. You think so?—As far as I know from the very earliest times we have got our books, but I do not know that we have. They may have been transferred somewhere else.

668. There



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall.

668. There is no practice of periodically destroying books?—No, except certain papers; but these account books are kept. The Comptroller and Auditor General has all the accounts for years past, unless he has pulped them. I might put in one point with reference to what Lord Balcarres asked. The present system of auditing accounts has obtained, I think, since that defalcation he referred to at South Kensington.

Chairman.

669. Did the defalcations which have been referred to occur before or after the passing of the Audit Act in 1866?—I think they were before; at all events, about that time.

Lord Balcarres.

670. You have told me the old account books, as far as you know, are preserved; are the vouchers also preserved, making up the items of these accounts?—They go to the Audit Office.

671. Do you think the Audit Office ought to be asked if these vouchers, which go to compose the items of expenditure, are still in existence?—Yes, if you wish to ask them.

672. You have not got them?—No, I have not, that I know of.

673. In that case the labour of collating these vouchers, adding up their totals and putting them into a form for the return to this Committee, would not fall on the Science and Art Department?—For what purpose? For this particular purpose?

674. The H 5 Vote?—They do not bear on that.

Sir John Gorst.

674.\* I was going to ask if the vouchers would show how much of any particular article bought went to South Kensington, and how much to Bethnal Green?—No. That is just the point I tried to make clear. For instance, a certain quantity of wood, we will say, is bought and the voucher is regular, and it is passed by the Comptroller and Auditor General, but that voucher does not show on its face how much is going to be spent in the eastern or western gallery, or in the southern gallery, in the machinery section or in the art museum, or at Bethnal Green, and therefore I say that you could not make any proper appropriation of this, because from that piece of wood you might take a certain number of feet for each or one or two of these galleries. It is exactly the same at the British Museum; it is in exactly the same position as their account.

Sir Henry Howorth.

675. May I interpose one question I forgot to ask as to the Jermyn Street Museum. Are the furniture and fittings there under the same staff, General Festing's staff?—Yes; but it is a different Vote.

676. You take an absolutely different Vote?—Yes; a different sub-head, rather; the Vote for the department is one, but it is a different sub-head, and there is also a different sub-head for Dublin, and a different sub-head for Edinburgh.

677. This is what I was to ask, whether you could not put that Bethnal Green Museum in exactly the same position as the Jermyn Street

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

Museum with regard to having a separate account for it?—It could be done, but it would be very foolish to do it.

678. It could be done?—Yes; of course next year they might take a Vote separately, as you might for the eastern gallery, and for the western gallery, and for the southern gallery at South Kensington; but you would interfere immensely with reasonable administration, and you would gain nothing by it.

679. What advantage is there in having a separate Vote for Jermyn Street and not a separate Vote for Bethnal Green?—I do not know that there is any.

Lord Balcarres.

680. I understand the vouchers deal with the sub-heads, and not with the items?—That is so; you will see that at the top of the Estimates.

681. And that the vouchers dealing with these sub-heads are not in the keeping of the Science and Art Department?—They go to the Audit Office, and I do not think they come back to us.

682. When the Audit Office goes through one of these sub-heads—H 5—do they take any notice of the fact that the sub-head is divided into items?—No.

683. Then the division into items is solely, I suppose, for the convenience of those persons who have to discuss and pass the Estimates?—Yes, for information.

684. And the information is of such a character that no further information really can be got from it, subsequent to these items having been passed by this House?—I do not follow you; of course you get information still, and that is in all probability the amount that will be required, and will be expended on that particular branch of the museum.

685. I notice in your answer you do not say it is impossible to work this out; you say it would be tedious?—But I have shown just now it would be impossible to give any accurate account because it is not kept under the separate items.

686. Can you tell us how much money was spent last year on cases, furniture and materials, and so forth, for Bethnal Green?—No, not the so forth; I could say how many cases went to Bethnal Green, I have no doubt.

687. They are made at South Kensington Museum, I suppose, and not at Bethnal Green?—They are either made at South Kensington, or got on contract, or sent from South Kensington. During the particular show on at this time there are a great number of additional cases sent from South Kensington, and they will go back after this particular show is over; it is one museum, and you might as well keep a separate account for each different court; really it comes to that.

688. You could give us a return of the number of cases which went completed from South Kensington?—I suppose they could, but I do not know really.

Sir John Gorst.] You are to have general Festing, who has this particularly under charge.

Witness.] I do not know. I suppose that by looking up the requisitions you might find that certain cases went to Bethnal Green, and certain frames, and so on.

689. I gather



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras.

689. I gather that you do not think it would be possible, practically, although the use of the word "tedious" does not in my mind predicate impossibility to make the return for which I asked?—Did I only say tedious?

690. Tedious?—I thought I gave other reasons besides tediousness.

691. Do you want the reference?—Yes.

692. It is at the bottom of the first column on page 30?—I do not understand this; I was reading from a paper "then as to the question of dividing the Bethnal Green portion, General Festing says, 'the sum provided under H 5 of the estimates is accounted for as a whole. The accounts are therefore not kept for each subdivision separately, and to get out the cost of articles ordered expressly for the Bethnal Green Museum for the last 10 years would be a very tedious work.'" But then it goes on "nor would it, when done, fairly represent the expenditure on account of that museum." Therefore, I was not resting what I said on the tediousness of it, but that it is practically impossible, and it would not be of any use to you. If we got out the items as far as we can, it would not give you a fair account.

Chairman.

693. The accounts are not kept in such a form that you could give the return required?—No; in fact, I have no right to keep it in that form, to spend money in keeping it in that form.

Lord Balcarras.

694. It seems to those of us intimately acquainted with this part of London, Bethnal Green, that it is extraordinary that it should be impossible for us to learn how much money has been spent on that place. Of course the matter must rest with your statement of the difficulties attending the explanation which I have asked?—I do not understand how a knowledge of Bethnal Green affects the question of the accounts at all.

695. Then I will say the knowledge of those persons who are well acquainted with the museum, we think it desirable to know the amount spent on cases, furniture, and fitting up objects for exhibition, and so forth, during the last few years?—Blinds and repairs to roof would come in too.

696. There is one further question I wish to ask as to which I am not quite clear. You gave an explanation about the Water-colour Vote, and you remember that in five years 4,600*l.* had been voted by Parliament under F 6, and you remember also that the sum of 8,200*l.* in the corresponding five years had been spent according to the return on Water-colours, &c., by the department.

697. Now do we understand that the difference between those two sums represents money spent on models and reproductions, and those kind of things?—No; on reproductions but not on models. On reproductions in the sense of oil-colour and water-colour drawings of objects in the museum which are sent for circulation.

698. Take the case of the Great Church of Perugia, of which recently you received a very large model, painted inside. Does that come under the Water-colour Vote?—No.

699. Which vote does it come under?—Under 0.5—5.

Lord Balcarras.

Reproductions. What you call the Water-colour Vote is the vote for historical collection of oil and water-colours.

700. And for nothing else?—That is all.

701. I understood that in this abstract you allowed for things besides the historical collection?—That abstract is not entered under the heads of the vote at all, and you cannot mix up the two and find the difference between them; they are perfectly distinct things. The abstract is divided under one set of heads, and the estimate is divided under another set of heads.

702. I quite understand the distinction, but you see it is quite clear that in the abstract the word "etc." occurs. "Historical Collection of Water-colour Drawings, &c."?—Under 18a "Paintings in Oil, &c.," and then under 18b is "Water-colour and other Drawings." I tried to explain to the Committee that those paintings in oil and water-colours were not the things necessarily that were bought out of the vote for "Historical Collection of Oil and Water-colours," it they were those drawings or paintings so bought, and also any other water-colour drawings, such as reproductions of objects in the museum. I daresay you are aware that we have several people continually making drawings; for instance, of the enamels, and if that drawing is made in water-colours, though it is paid for out of a different vote altogether, it comes into this and forms one of this lot of water-colours, and the cost is put against it.

703. The only difficulty, I think, is that the Appendix does not show sufficiently clearly what this money is spent on?—It is not supposed to show the way in which the money is spent. You are connecting it with the estimate and the appropriation account, it has nothing to do with that. It is only to show what, out of these different classes of objects, have been bought for the museum, and, therefore, it is divided, as I pointed out, into various heads; porcelain, sculpture, and so on.

704. I raised this point to see if I could persuade those in authority to separate the items composing these grants a little bit more clearly; thus, under that 18b, I think it is in your Appendix to the Report, the words are "Water-colour and other Drawings &c.," and from the 31st December 1891 to the 31st December 1896, 8,256*l.* is accounted for, whereas in the estimates —?—Is it accounted for? I must protest against that. This is not meant to account for the vote in the slightest degree.

705. I have chosen again a wrong word, I will say rather recorded; I will substitute the word "recorded" for "accounts for." Whereas from the 31st March 1892 to 31st March 1897, in the estimates 4,600*l.* have been voted, all I ask is —?—Voted for a different thing.

706. All I ask is (I submit it respectfully to the authorities of the department) that in the future reports there should be some distinction which will show us, on comparing the estimates voted by Parliament with the annual report issued by the department, what the mystic word "etcetera" means; that is really all it amounts to?—How would you propose to treat 11b say, "porcelain."

707. I imagine it is very well treated as it is?—These are all the objects of this kind classified under different heads altogether from the classification



1 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

fication in the estimates. All these objects so classified are put down before; I do not see how you are to bring those into the estimate unless one said that so much of this was bought out of vote so-and-so and so much out of vote so-and-so; but as this is not an appropriation account, and has nothing to do with the accounts, it seems to me that we should only be making the matter very confusing.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

708. You think there need be no relation between the estimate submitted to Parliament and the annual report submitted by the department?—I never said anything of that kind.

709. In this particular Appendix?—Not when the Appendix is classified in a different way; there cannot be.

[Adjourned to Friday 22nd April.]







Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 1st April 1898.*

*Major-General Sir John Donnelly, K.C.B.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of  
*Minutes of Evidence* taken before Committees, and of  
*Papers, &c.* laid before them, it is particularly requested  
 that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be  
 careful that they are confined to the object for which they  
 are printed,—the special use of the Members of such  
 Committees.]

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97.B.39.

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

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ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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### 6.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 22nd April 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS

Any Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

Minutes of the Science and Art Department, 1898.  
Select Committee on

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

Witnesses called before the Select Committee on the Science and Art Department, 1898.

Witness called on 11th May 1898

Witness called on 11th May 1898



*Friday, 22nd April, 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Major-General Sir JOHN DONNELLY, K.C.B., called in; and further Examined.

*Chairman.*

Are you prepared to put anything in arising out of the Examination last time?—In question 549 I was asked to get sanction to put in the correspondence that took place with the Treasury with regard to the removal of the Geological Museum from Jermyn Street to South Kensington. In the letter from the Treasury dated 21st April, 1898, in which they give sanction for the production of this correspondence, Sir Francis Mowatt says, "My Lords believe you are aware that the immediate cause of the correspondence was the proposals then before the Government for housing the United Service Institution, and that that question having been having been settled, the transfer of the Jermyn Street Museum to South Kensington has not, so far as my Lords are aware, been further conceded." I have a copy of the correspondence here: I do not know whether the Committee would wish me to run through it. The first letter is one dated 1st March, 1892; it is from Sir Francis Mowatt to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department.—"Sir,—I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you for the information of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that it has been pointed out to my Lords that there are many reasons that make it desirable that the Geological Museum should be removed from the premises which it at present occupies in Jermyn Street and placed at South Kensington. Such a removal would not only be in accordance with the scheme contemplated by Sir Frederick Bramwell's Committee in 1885, but would also bring the collections conveniently near to the Natural History Collections to which the Duke of Devonshire's Commission in 1874 considered them to be closely allied and to the other portions of the Science Schools from which they are at present inconveniently separated. My Lords understand that room might be found for the geological collections in the Cross Gallery. They would be glad to be furnished with the views of the Department of Science and Art

0.5—6.

*Chairman—continued.*

upon the proposal generally and in particular upon the question of the adequacy and suitability of the accommodation provided by the Cross Gallery. I am, Sir—"and that is signed by Sir Francis Mowatt. In reply to that, on the 16th March, by instructions, I informed the Treasury that "the Director of the Geological Museum is at present abroad on sick leave, and has asked that the consideration of the question may be deferred till he returns, which he expects to do shortly, and has had an opportunity of seeing the Cross Gallery at South Kensington to which it is proposed to transfer the Museum." Then on the 8th April, 1892, the Treasury revert to the matter again, and refer to my letter of the 18th March, "in which it was stated that Sir Archibald Geikie, the Director of the Museum, was absent on sick leave, and that he had asked that the consideration of the question of such transfer might be deferred until his return, which was expected shortly. I am to request that you will inform the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education that, if Sir Archibald has now returned, my Lords would be glad to have a reply to their letter of the 1st ult. on this subject at the earliest convenience of their Lordships of the Committee." There was a little further delay, and I wrote on the 3rd May, 1892, to the Secretary of the Treasury: "Sir,—Adverting to Mr. Mowatt's letter of the 1st March, I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education to transmit for the information of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury the enclosed copies of a memorandum and letter written by Sir Archibald Geikie on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Geological Museum from Jermyn-street to South Kensington. My Lords would be quite prepared to assent to the removal of the Geological Museum and Geological Survey Offices to South Kensington if good and sufficient accommodation could be provided for them there, close together, but it would appear from Sir A. Geikie's letter that the Cross Gallery in which it is proposed to place the collections is

insufficient

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22 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

insufficient for the purpose, and though, possibly, offices for the Survey might be provided in the neighbourhood, there are no offices or work-rooms for the Museum in the Cross Gallery. From the nature of the access to this Cross Gallery, through the India Museum, and for other reasons, it is obvious that it could only be looked upon as a temporary home for the Geological Museum, and two moves for such collections in a few years would not only be very costly, but greatly to be deprecated on all grounds." With that letter was sent Sir Archibald Geikie's long Memorandum, which went into the whole question of the suitability of the Cross Gallery for the purpose, and which is referred to in the letter I have just read. I do not think, as it will be printed in the Appendix, that it is necessary to go into the matter now. I was asked by Lord Balcarras, in Questions 618 and 619, as to when Mr. Weale was informed of the conditions under which his services were extended. I find that the letter from the Treasury giving those conditions was referred to him on the day it was received, and is marked on that day by him as seen by him.

711. Does that complete what you have to put in?—I think those are the only things.

*Lord Balcarras.*

712. I have two questions I wish to ask you, one is with regard to the Catalogue of the Piot Collection. Could you tell me if it was intended to be printed?—I fancy it was.

713. Can you tell me why it was never printed?—No, I do not know why it was never printed; it is now being incorporated in the other general catalogues, I believe.

714. Is the old slip Catalogue made by Mr. Mollet and his friends of a nature to make it worth while to print it as it stands?—I believe so.

715. And the incorporation at the present moment, so far as you know, does not involve re-writing and revision of a considerable number of these slips?—No, I think not; there may be some slight revisions to bring it into the same form of cataloguing as is adopted at present, but I do not think it requires any large amount of work.

716. You believe it to be a good Catalogue?—I think so.

717. Is it the case that Board Meetings have been resumed at South Kensington?—I do not know exactly; the Vice-President comes twice a week to South Kensington.

718. Is that a Board Meeting?—I suppose it may be called a Board Meeting.

719. I wish to know definitely?—There is no definition of a Board Meeting, and I cannot define it more precisely.

720. Were Board Meetings held under Mr. Acland without your knowledge?—Mr. Acland came to South Kensington sometimes without my knowledge, but as to Board Meetings, he simply came to South Kensington and had the papers before him with the other Officers of the Department present. The Vice-President now comes to South Kensington and goes through such business as he considers right.

*Lord Balcarras—continued.*

721. Will you please answer my question, I think it is a simple one: Were official Board meetings held by Mr. Acland without the knowledge of the Secretary of the Department?—If you are to be so precise in this matter as it appears, I must ask for a definition of what a Board meeting is.

722. I would ask that from the Secretary of the Department?—I have told you that the Vice-President, Mr. Acland, constantly came to South Kensington and had meetings there at which he transacted business with the various officers of the Department present, and if that is a Board meeting those Board meetings were held. I wanted to be precise because it might be held that in order to have a Board meeting both the Lord President and the Vice-President should be present, so I put it in more strict form.

723. When Mr. Acland held Board meetings is it not the case that high officers, such as Mr. Armstrong, Captain Abney, and perhaps Dr. Middleton or General Festing, should be informed that they were to attend in order to confer with the Vice-President or the Lord President on a fixed day at a particular time?—Yes.

724. That would be a Board meeting?—It is a meeting such as I have described; I cannot tell whether strictly speaking it would be a Board meeting without the Lord President's presence. I do not want to fence with the question in any way, but until you define what a Board meeting is, I cannot go further than I have already gone in saying that when Mr. Acland came there he met various heads of the Department and transacted business.

725. And that you consider to be a Board meeting?—I always called it so.

726. Can you recollect whether you had any difficulty in giving what appeared to the Committee a very exhaustive definition of a Board meeting last session, when questions were asked about the point by Mr. Acland?—I do not remember that I made any difficulty about giving any definition of Board meetings. May I be referred to what I said on the matter?

*Sir John Gorst.* I am not conscious of ever having held a Board meeting.

*Witness.* The only point as to which I have had to appear to fence with the question is as to what is a Board, whether the presence of the Lord President is necessary to constitute a Board.

*Sir John Gorst.*

727. Were any minutes kept at that time when Lord Spencer attended these regular Boards on Thursdays; were minutes of the Board meetings kept?—No, only the papers were minuted as they are now. There were no minutes such as are kept of an ordinary meeting of a Committee, but simply the papers were minuted as they were brought up.

*Chairman.*

728. On question as to Board meetings, I find evidence was given by Lord Spencer on the 18th May, 1897, Questions 5,002 to 5,005 inclusive, as follows:—“(Q.) At that time there were regular Boards held at South Kensington?

—(A.)



22 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—Continued.

—(A.) Yes, there were regular Boards; we used to attend every Thursday, I think. I attended those very regularly.—(Q.) And the Board consisted of the Vice-President, Mr. Mundella, Sir Francis Sandford who was then the Secretary of the whole Education Department, was he not?—(A.) Yes, he was.—(Q.) Mr. MacLeod of MacLeod, who was the Assistant Secretary of the Science and Art Department, Sir Philip Owen, the Director of the South Kensington Museum, Mr. Poynter (now Sir Edward Poynter), the Director of Art, Sir John Donnelly, the Director of Science, and Mr. Bowler, who was the Assistant Art Director?—(A.) Yes.—(Q.) And, of course, the Lord President?—(A.) Yes, that formed the Board."

*Lord Balcarras*.

729. Do you recollect in Question 2,004 Mr. Acland asking you the following question, "There has been mention of the Board and mention of the Committee of Council once or twice in the course of your examination. To make it quite clear about the Board meetings which were held when I was Vice-President, I want to ask you who the Board was composed of. Would you kindly tell the Committee who were the members of that Board, which has been mentioned more than once?" To which you replied, "The Board consists of the Lord President and Vice-President, or one or the other, and the heads of the different divisions; formerly it was the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and the Directors of the Science Museum and the Art Museum, and the Director for Science, and the Director for Art, and the Principal Senior Inspector." Has an official Board Meeting coming under that official category been resumed during this Government?—I think I have stated all I can state on the subject; I have stated that the Vice-President has been to South Kensington and has met some of the Officers of the Department there, but there has not been a Board with the Lord President and the Vice-President both present, nor have all the officers been summoned at one time to meet the Vice-President.

730. There have therefore been since last Session no official Board meetings of the character described by you in No. 2,004?—I suppose not. Certainly not with the Lord President and Vice-President present. The only official description of a Board that has ever been given that I know of is in that paper that I handed in which was the form in which the administration was to be carried out at that time (Form No. 1,286) and that says "The Lord President, and Vice-President, when possible, attend at South Kensington weekly, with the view of despatching current business with more facility than by means of Minutes sent to Whitehall. For the sake of brevity, a meeting at South Kensington is called the 'Board' in this memorandum."

731. Did you, expressing a doubt as to whether a Board Meeting had or had not been held since last Session, contemplate that the presence of the Vice-President or the Lord President at South Kensington where he confers with high officials of the Department to transact

0.5—6.

*Lord Balcarras*—continued.

the business of his Department could be called a Board Meeting?—Yes, I suppose it could be called a Board Meeting, but it was not the former idea of a Board at all.

732. If the Vice-President or the Lord President were to attend and confer with high officials for the transaction of business every day of the week you would consider he had held six informal Board Meetings?—No. I said it might be considered a Board Meeting.

733. It might be held by you?—No. I said it was not a Board as it was originally considered a Board, but that you might consider the fact that the Vice-President coming down to South Kensington to meet some of the high officials of the Department a Board although it had not been specifically summoned as such.

*Mr. Woodall*.

734. Is it within your knowledge that in former times the formality of the Board was more strictly followed than has been the case under recent administrations?—Yes, I think it was.

*Chairman*.

735. As the last question of the examination I may put a question as a sort of summary. I want to call your attention to Question 660 where some reference was made to re-casting. I am quite aware that that is ancient history but if you have any remarks to make on that point the Committee would like to hear any statement you have to make?—I had a careful statement prepared by the Clerk of Accounts on the matter and it is as follows: "The 'recasting' of the accounts had no connection with the defalcation that occurred during Sir H. Cole's secretaryship. By the system of accounts in use at the passing of the Exchequer and Audit Act of 1866, for which the then Accountant of the Board of Trade was responsible, all orders issued on the Paymaster-General were considered as paid by him at the time of issue. The 'recasting' consisted of checking the payments made by the Paymaster-General with those ordered by the Science and Art Department. During this process it was discovered that large sums were withdrawn from the account of the department at the Paymaster-General's under Treasury and other directions without any notification being given to the Department of Science and Art. No vouchers items or classification under sub-heads were ever challenged, but the work was undertaken simply to reconcile the balances as they stood in the books at South Kensington with those in the books at the Paymaster-General's. The defalcation had nothing to do with either the vouchers or the book-keeping. There was a Treasury regulation that the balance of cash in the Accountant's hands overnight was never to exceed £500. The books and the accounts sent to the Comptroller and Auditor-General showed that this balance was nearly £8,000, but the gradual augmentation beyond the permissible limit was not noticed, and when questioned the Accountant gave the false reply that he had to advance money on account of other Public Departments, which advances were not shown in his account of payments, but formed part of his

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balance



22 April 1898.]

Major-General Sir J. DONNELLY, K.C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

balance supposed to be in his hands." With regard to the further questions 665 and 670, we have the books of account at the Science and Art Department from the commencement of its

*Chairman*—continued.

existence. Referring to No. 671, the vouchers are retained by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and, it is believed, destroyed by him every five or seven years.

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S., called in ; and Examined.

*Chairman*.

736. I think you have prepared a statement, the reading of which may shorten the business?—I have prepared a statement rather tracing in as few words as I can the history and progress of the Museum.

737. What is the technical definition of your office?—I am Science Museum Director.

738. Will you proceed with the statement which you are prepared to submit to the Committee?—A Museum of Science was contemplated as an integral part of the Science and Art Department from its creation. Sir Charles Trevelyan and Sir Stafford Northcote, reporting to the Treasury in 1853 on the Department of Practical Science and Art, then under the Board of Trade, say, when referring to the Museum in Jermyn Street: "The Museum itself cannot properly be developed in all its parts for want of space. The premises were constructed for the limited object of a Museum of Geology applied to the Arts; and if the institution is to become a general college of Science, a museum of much greater extent will be required." When the Department of Science and Art was removed from Marlborough House to South Kensington, the Science collections (other than those of Practical Geology, which still remained at Jermyn-street) were for the first time arranged together for public inspection. They comprised Foods, Animal Products, Models of Machinery, Examples of Structural and Building Materials, and of Educational Apparatus—a collection which had been formed by the Society of Arts and presented to the Government.

*Sir Henry Howorth*.

739. Are those virtually the heads under which you divide your Museum now? You mentioned specifically certain things: do you divide your Museum into so many departments?—Yes; the Food and Animal Products are now at Bethnal Green; the Models of Machinery are at South Kensington the Structural and Building Materials are really in abeyance at present for want of room. The Patent Office Museum was also placed in the building erected for the Science and Art Department at South Kensington, but its management was retained by the Commissioners of Patents until the end of 1883. On the establishment of the Royal School of Naval Architecture at South Kensington in 1860, the Admiralty collection of Naval models was arranged there, and was considerably supplemented by contributions from private sources. When ten years later the School and the Admiralty collection were moved to Greenwich, the rest of the collections of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering remained at South Kensington. The Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction and the Advancement of Science, in their Fourth Report (1874), de-

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

scribed the various Science collections of the Department and the Patent Office Museum. They expressed their regret that there was no national collection of the instruments used in the investigation of mechanical, chemical, or physical laws, although such collections were of great importance to persons interested in the experimental sciences, and they concluded this portion of their Report by recommending the formation of such a collection.

740. Who recommended that?—The Royal Commission on Scientific Instruction—the Duke of Devonshire's Commission. In 1876 a loan collection of scientific apparatus was organised by the Department, and was opened by Her Majesty in person. This collection excited much interest and attention, not only in England, but on the Continent, from whence numerous contributions were received. Conferences were held in connection with it, in which the leading English and foreign men of science took part. It was so generally felt that it would be unfortunate if this opportunity of establishing a Science Museum were lost that a memorial on the subject, signed by upwards of 140 of the most eminent men of science in this country, who had taken part in the conferences, was presented to the Lord President by the President of the Royal Society and the five Chairmen of Conferences. The Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 at this time, 1876, made an offer to erect a building to contain a Science Museum Examination Rooms and a National Science Library at a cost of £100,000 on certain specified conditions. This offer was referred by the Treasury to the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, who trusted that the Government would feel no difficulty in accepting the Commissioners' offer. But the Treasury, after consideration decided to refuse this offer (in 1879). The development of the Science Collections, however, remained in abeyance till 1881, when the Lord President, Earl Spencer, stating that "the importance of having a Museum for Scientific Apparatus is amply established," appointed a Committee, consisting of the President of the Royal Society, the Professors of the Normal School of Science and Royal School of Mines, and three officers of the Department, to report on the collection.

*Chairman*.

741. I think you have given the dates of these?—Yes; this was in 1881. They reported that it would form a nucleus of a Science Museum, though there was a "certain number, perhaps inconsiderable in the aggregate, of objects which it would be desirable no longer to retain." The Professors of what is now the Royal College of Science were, in accordance with the recommendations of their Committee, appointed as a permanent



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

permanent Committee of Reference on the Collections of Scientific Apparatus for Teaching and Research. In December, 1883, the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act having transferred the control and management of the Patent Office Museum to the Department of Science and Art, the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education appointed a Committee to advise them as to the existing Patent Museum considered in connection with the Mechanical Section of the South Kensington Museum. They were asked to report as to what objects should be retained for the Science Museum and to offer suggestions as to the scope and development of the Mechanical Section of the Science Museum treated from the scientific and educational point of view. The constitution of this Committee and the principal parts of their report are given in the Calendar of the Department. Their recommendations have been as far as possible carried out, and the objects from the Patent Museum, which were recommended to be retained, were incorporated with the Machinery Division of the Museum. In January, 1884, the Treasury appointed an inter-departmental Committee to consider and report upon the scope of the Science Collections, and the space required for them immediately and prospectively, and to suggest plans for housing them in the existing galleries to the south of the Horticultural Gardens, or in new galleries to be built upon their site, and the adjacent ground. The members were Sir Frederick Bramwell, F.R.S. (Chairman), Lord Lingen, K.C.B., Mr. A. B. Mitford, C.B., and Colonel Donnelly, R.E., with Dr. W. Pole, F.R.S., as Secretary. In their report (from which Mr. Mitford dissented and gave in a separate report) the Committee, after pointing out the desirability that such a country as Great Britain should possess a thoroughly good and complete national collection of Scientific and Technical objects, referred to the recommendations made by the Committees who had been invited by the Department to report on the collections, and with reference to the space required, adopted the figures given in these reports. These were, for the total space required at that present time, 120,000 square feet, and for the estimated increase required in ten years 40,000, making a total of 160,000 feet. On the 19th February, 1889, the Treasury appointed another Committee to examine into the Science collections, and to report whether there are any duplicates or other objects no longer essential to the value and representative character of the collections which might be removed in order to provide additional accommodation for new objects of greater importance. This Committee consisted of Mr. John Evans, D.C.L., LL.D. (Chairman), Lord F. Hervey, M.P., Lord Rayleigh, Sir Bernhard Samuelson, Bart., M.P., Sir Douglas Galton, K.C.B., and Sir Henry Roscoe, D.C.L., LL.D., M.P., with Mr. Stephen E. Spring Rice, of the Treasury, as Secretary. They recommended the retention of the collections (other than those of Furniture and Fittings for Elementary Schools and the Fish Culture Collection, for the exhibition of which at South Kensington there was no necessity), viz., those in the western galleries connected with Scientific

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*Chairman—continued.*

Instruction and Research, the collection of Machinery and Inventions, including the selected specimens from the old Patent Museum and the collection illustrative of naval architecture and machinery. As regards the Buildings, they point out that the Western Galleries are fairly satisfactory as regards construction and lighting, but inconveniently situated as regards both the Normal School (now styled the Royal College of Science) and the rest of the Museum, and they "have little doubt that a building giving an equal accommodation could be provided at a cost less than the capitalised value of the rent (£2,000 per annum) at present paid for them." They also point out that the upper floor of the Southern Galleries is not strong enough to support considerable weights, so that collections of machinery cannot be placed there. They further say that "the present state of dispersion of the Museum involves extra expense in connection with the entrances, attendants, and police, and also increases the difficulty of an efficient superintendence by the superior officers in charge of the collections." The Report concludes by an expression of opinion that little, if any, space can be gained by weeding the existing collections, and that an exhibition space of about 90,000 square feet should be provided without delay, and would suffice for the requirements of a creditable Science Museum, but would not include any provision for offices, warehouses, workshops or other accessories to such a Museum. The foregoing is a short summary of the principal reports and recommendations with regard to the Science Museum. Fuller particulars are given in the calendar of the Department. The present disposition of the collections is as follows:—The total space occupied for exhibition being about 78,000 feet, scientific apparatus for teaching and research occupies the upper and a larger portion of the lower floor in the "Western Galleries," the entrance to which is in Imperial Institute Road. The Machinery and Inventions Division, in which are included the Mining and Metallurgical Models, occupies the greater part of the lower floor of the "Southern Galleries," and apparatus for teaching Mechanics occupies part of the upper floor. The Naval Models and Marine Engines occupy part of the lower floor and part of the upper floor. The Fish Culture Collection occupies the return building at the west end of the Southern Galleries. The continual increase in the numbers of visitors to these collections shows the interest taken in them by the public. Classes, accompanied by their teachers, frequently come, even from distant places in the country, to see the collections in the Science Museum, and to these all possible facilities are given for enabling the teachers to give demonstrations to their pupils.

742. I believe the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee to which you referred was presented to Parliament in the year 1896?—Yes; I began by saying that in January, 1884, the Treasury appointed a Committee, and I did not put in the date of their Report.

743. Perhaps I ought to ask you one or two questions based on that interesting paper. Your  
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22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

evidence amounts to this—that the science collections are of high value?—Yes.

744. Do you consider that their value would be increased by an enlargement and extension?—Yes, we are not very much pinched for space at present, but we could do more if we had more space. We are growing now; we have not got quite to the state of crowding that there is in the Art Museum.

745. Probably you never desire to reach that stage?—I hope not; we are rather crowded in some parts now.

746. Do you consider that in laying out and designing new buildings provision ought to be made for further accommodation for the science collection?—Yes. The Second Treasury Commission considerably cut down the space which the first one recommended. The first recommended 160,000 feet, whereas the second thought 90,000 feet was enough. We actually now occupy 78,000 feet, so that even taking the lower figure we are not up to that mark yet.

747. I take it from your evidence that your opinion is that little can be done in the way of weeding out?—Very little. We weed out whenever we can. There are a great many things which have been weeded out.

748. You desire to keep up for the sake of education the historical sequence?—Yes; certainly.

749. So that people may learn the growth of science, and also learn how to avoid errors made by their forefathers?—Yes.

750. You have a library as part of the science collections?—We have a library, but it is on the east side of the road.

751. You desire it to be on the west side of the road?—I think it would be much better. There was a reason up to two or three years ago for having it on the east side, which was that none of the buildings on the west side were lighted at night, and it was a very important thing that the library should be open at night; but now that we have electric light all through the buildings on the west side that reason ceases to exist.

752. Do you think that for the purposes of science, and of the Museum generally, the library ought to be increased?—I think the library does very well; we do continually increase it. We act principally on the advice of the Professors of the Royal College of Science, and we are continually increasing.

753. You consider that gradual growth is sufficient to meet your requirements?—Yes.

754. I will take it from you without going into things in detail, that you wish to have the whole of the science collection on the west side of the road?—Yes; if I may be allowed to say so.

755. You deprecate somewhat strongly separation?—I think it would be a great pity to separate any part from the rest. When people come from a long distance, as they very often do, they may want to see more than one part of the Science Museum on the same day. To the casual visitor who comes in from London, and knows his way about, it does not matter whether it is separated or not, as he knows where to go to; but in the case of a person who does not know

*Chairman—continued.*

the collection very well, and who comes from some distance, if he looks at certain things—say biology, which is now in the Western Gallery, and he wants to look at something on chemistry on the other side of the road, it would be inconvenient.

756. Do you think the present crowding of the collection interferes with study?—We have sufficient room for study in our part. We are able to give two rooms to students. We have a large number of students who come with their teachers, and they are allowed to have the apparatus out in these rooms, and the teacher can demonstrate. We have classes sometimes of thirty, forty, or fifty, or more.

757. Those are not classes belonging to the Schools?—No; not belonging to the Royal College of Science, but classes belonging to the country.

*Sir John Gorst.*

758. Do you think it would be a useful thing now to bring the Geological Museum also to South Kensington?—I think so; I think it would be much better to have it as part of the whole Science Museum. I think I may say that all the opinions that have been given at all are almost all in that direction.

*Mr. Woodall.*

759. To what extent are the Science collections at Jermyn-street duplicates of those at South Kensington?—You can hardly say that there is any absolute duplication. There is a little duplication with regard to the library probably; we are obliged to have duplicate copies of some of the works that they have.

760. Have you at South Kensington anything comparable with the collections in mineralogy, medals, and so on, that they have at Jermyn-street?—No; you would find what might be called duplication, perhaps, but we have not a collection of minerals at all at South Kensington like that at Jermyn-street. We have a few small collections arranged for the purpose of teaching—a few typical collections.

761. You have nothing like the collection of marbles?—No.

762. I suppose you would hardly regard the collection of pottery at Jermyn-street as properly belonging to a geological collection, would you?—Well no; the object I suppose was—when that was formed at Jermyn Street—to show the economical uses of what was dug out of the ground.

763. The applicability of natural material to Art?—Yes.

764. I suppose there could be no kind of question that, even if it were thought desirable to retain at Jermyn-street the purely characteristic geological examples, the pottery, such as it is, at Jermyn-street would be more at home in South Kensington?—Well, I am not quite so sure about that. The pottery at South Kensington—I am speaking now out of my own parish as it were—is collected from the point of view of Art design; the pottery at Jermyn-street is not collected from the point of view of Art design.

765. But there are some very fine examples of artistic earthenware at Jermyn-street?—Yes.

766. Which



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

766. Which would be useful in the art collection at South Kensington?—I suppose so.

767. If there was a removal you would not regard those examples as properly belonging to the scientific collection, under your direction would you?—That is a difficult question to answer, because as I say, the collection at Jermyn-street was started with that notion of showing the use of these things. As far as South Kensington is concerned, we have not done a corresponding kind of thing.

Mr. Bartley.

768. If both the science and art collections were to be on the east side do you think that in a few years you would again be in a state of congestion with both of them?—If the whole of the science collections were put on the east side as well as the art collections, we should be in a state of congestion at once, but there is no proposal to do that.

769. Do you think that, as a permanent solution, it is wiser to keep to the separation on both sides of the road?—I think so.

770. Do you think that is the only really permanent solution?—I think so.

Dr. Farquharson.

771. Is there a probability of a large expansion of the scientific collection in the future. I suppose it is a rapidly growing part with regard to museum accommodation?—It is younger altogether than the art museum; it has not been going for so long. It is only within the last few years that anything much has been done towards expanding it, but it will expand, no doubt, and it ought to expand. There are a great many more things we should like to have. I do not suppose you could say there would be a rapid expansion, because you cannot get the things you want very rapidly.

772. When things get antiquated and out of date you keep them on as historical records—you say you do not weed?—We do not profess that it is only the thing immediately up to date that is of interest for us to show; the thing immediately up to date is a thing to be shown at a commercial exhibition, but for us we want to illustrate the progress and illustrate the scientific principles. A machine of hundreds of years old may illustrate the scientific principles just as much as one that was made yesterday. Therefore merely because a thing is antiquated you cannot say it is useless for the purpose of illustrating the scientific principles.

773. It has real value as well as antiquarian interest?—Yes.

774. Do you think if the scientific collection were alongside of the art collection there is any danger of the fumes from the chemical laboratories injuring the pictures or the works of art? I only ask because there was a question asked about that in the House two days ago?—At the present moment the chemical laboratories are on the same side of the road as the Art Museum, but the building is detached, and the fumes go up flues delivered at the top of the building, and therefore there ought to be no risk from that.

0.5—6.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

775. I understand that you have built up your scientific collection largely on the advice of the professors of the science schools?—Yes; they are the standing committee of advice.

776. And you have told us already how classes from outside science schools visit your exhibits—do you adopt any other means of bringing your museum work into connection with science teaching that is going on throughout the country?—Yes, we have certain collections which are circulated to science schools.

777. To what class of science schools?—Science schools in connection with the Department.

778. Do you do anything in connection with the various technical institutes that have been formed throughout the country?—Only if they are in connection with the Department, and have science classes in connection with the Department; I think most of them have.

779. You are probably aware that elementary science has occupied a prominent part in the Educational Code during the last few years?—Yes.

780. And various schemes are incorporated in the Code. Have the Museum authorities ever communicated to the teachers of such schools, particularly in the Metropolis, any information respecting the exhibits at South Kensington which would be useful in teaching such subjects?—No, I am not aware that any special communication has been made from the Department.

781. You know that our elementary schools may send their students now during school hours to visit institutions like South Kensington?—Yes.

782. Would it not be possible to bring your exhibits more prominently under the notice of the teachers as an inducement to them to take the students there to see the objects for themselves?—I do not quite see how we could do that.

783. For example, would it not be possible for you to make yourself, in the first place, thoroughly familiar with the schemes included in the Code, and then on those schemes to draft a circular showing what illustrations you possessed which would be of service in the teaching of such subjects, and bringing such a circular very widely under the notice of the heads of such scholastic establishments?—Well, I suppose that could be done, but it seems to me that all the teachers know, I suppose, by this time, that there is a South Kensington Museum, and it seems to me that the right thing for them to do is to come and see it. We are always ready to give them any assistance when they come.

784. I understand you to say that the classes which visit you are classes from schools attached to the Science and Art Department?—In connection with the Science and Art Department.

Chairman.

785. I put the question distinctly to you whether the classes you spoke of were in connection with the Science and Art Department or whether they had no relation?—They were classes which were not in any way in connection with our schools at South Kensington, but they are in connection with the Department, and receive grants and so on.

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786. Your



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray.

786. Your work in the past has been entirely limited to the schools in connection with the Science and Art Department, and you have not touched the public elementary schools and the science teaching of those schools?—We have not circulated any of our circulating collections, I think, anywhere except to science classes in connection with the Department, but we do not confine to the science classes connected with the Department the facilities we give the teachers to explain the things to their students. If anybody says they have a class they wish to bring, and if it seems all right on the face of it, we say, "Yes, you can bring your students at the time you mention; you shall have all the assistance we can give you."

787. Would there be any objection to sending specimens to schools not in connection with the Science and Art Department?—You mean these circulating collections?

788. Yes?—I do not know about any objection, except, of course, that it means more expense.

789. Suppose, for instance, one of the science classes held by the City Guilds applied now for a certain collection, would they receive it, or would they be refused?—I think these classes you speak of are already in connection with us. Are there any classes of that sort which are not?

790. Yes.—We must draw the line somewhere, and we cannot do an infinite amount of circulation. Our rule is to circulate things to classes in connection with the Department.

791. Have you sufficient material to extend the circulation?—No, we have not; that is why we draw a line, and we work up to that line. If you put the line further off no doubt we should be prepared to work up to the further line if we had the means to do it.

792. But you have not the means?—No.

793. There are classes in the country capable of doing good work which do not apply for your grants, and I think they should be in a position to apply for your exhibits. I notice that this report says that the object of the Museum should be to provide apparatus and specimens for instruction given in the Normal College of Science and for the teaching of Science generally throughout the United Kingdom. I understand you now to say that your material is not sufficient to enable you to go very far, but that beyond that there is no objection to it?—As far as my position as Director of the Museum is concerned, if it is laid down that we are to send circulating specimens to a great many more schools, I can only say that I shall be happy to try to carry it out. The question of the policy of doing that is hardly one for me to decide upon.

Mr. Woodall.

794. You would hardly consider it consistent with the general usages of your Department and your Office to extend invitations by way of advertising the value of the collections?—No, it does not seem to me to be the right way of doing it. I think if people cannot find out for themselves that there is a South Kensington Museum and things that would be useful to them in teaching, they cannot be much of teachers.

Mr. Woodall—continued.

795. Supposing it were clear that the advantages of these collections for the purpose indicated by my honourable colleague were not sufficiently known, would you not regard it as rather the duty of the administration at Whitehall, who are constantly in communication with those elementary schools, to issue the circular if such were wanted?—I think so, certainly.

Mr. Bartley.

796. Is it not a fact that some years ago a gentleman was employed lecturing to make known the advantages of these collections all over the country?—Yes, you mean Mr. Buckmarsh.

797. Did he not make known the advantages of the Institution, and the facilities for establishing classes in connection with it, and was not that done for some years?—Yes, I think so.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

798. Is anything of the kind being done now?—I do not think we have any men going about in that way. As I say, we rather take it for granted now that people do know something about the Science and Art Department, but forty years ago, when Mr. Buckmarsh began that work, they did not.

Lord Balcarras.

799. Will you tell me which branches of the Science Collection have ceased to grow. There is the Fish Culture, the Food Collection, and the Agricultural Collection, all those branches have ceased to grow, have they not?—The Food Collection has ceased to grow in the sense of being larger than it was; I do not think it is taking up any more room now, but it is continually being revised and so on. With regard to some of the collections—the Structural Collections—it is absolutely stowed away and not exhibited at all; it has ceased to exist as far as the exhibition is concerned.

800. And the Fish Collection is not increasing in bulk, is it?—No.

801. And the Agricultural Collection?—The only Agricultural Collection we have is the agricultural machinery and that comes into the general machinery—I beg your pardon—the only Agricultural Collection you refer to is not increasing; there are some specimens of drains and grasses and so on.

802. Is there any other branch besides those four you enumerate which are not increasing in bulk?—No, I think not.

803. I gather to some extent that it is settled that the Science Collection should be moved over the road; in that case would it not be a convenience to preserve the Science Library where it is so that it would be on the same side as the bulk of the Science Collections?—The part of the Science Collections which it is now proposed should be moved over the road would be only a comparatively small part of the whole. I am speaking now of the collections of course.

804. It is not proposed that the whole of the collection shall be moved over the road?—No.

805. But what you call a comparatively small part of the present exhibits?—Yes.

806. In



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

806. In that case would it be a convenience that the Science Library should remain where it is?—I do not think that it so much matters. Supposing this scheme of building new laboratories and moving part of the collection on the east side is carried out, in some ways that is a reason for leaving the Science Library where it is.

807. Is it contemplated, as I gather from your answer just now, that new laboratories are to be built?—Yes.

808. On the east side of the road?—Yes.

809. Where are they to be put?—I do not know that I am free to answer these questions.

810. I will ask you a question which you understood fully many years before this Departmental Committee was appointed. In the event of fresh laboratories being put into the same range of buildings as the collections which might suffer from the noxious fumes, are you absolutely certain it would be possible to carry off those fumes without their being in any way brought into contact with the collections?—Perfectly possible; I see no difficulty in building laboratories alongside an Art Museum.

811. That is not the phrase—in the same range of buildings?—If by the same range of buildings you would understand that there should be openings in between from one to the other, then I should say you had better not build them so, but as I say there is no necessity for doing that; you can build the Chemical Laboratory alongside the Art Museum, and you do not want to have a lot of openings from one to the other or any openings at all from the one to the other.

812. I want to know about the fumes that go out at the top of the Royal College of Science—they go out at the top?—Yes.

813. Are they absolutely dispersed from that moment—do fumes get down again like soot?—Well practically I should say not; they get dispersed very quickly indeed.

814. With regard to duplication which you have mentioned in the geological collections, we understand you to say that there is virtually no duplication of any importance between the Jermyn-street collections and the South Kensington collections, but is there not a considerable duplication between the Jermyn-street collections and the Natural History Museum collections?—That is a little difficult for me to answer. The original principle upon which the two collections were started was different. The collection at Jermyn-street was to represent British Stratigraphical Geology—as I understand the collection in the Natural History Museum was arranged from the other point of view—the Natural History point of view, from the Paleontological point of view. Now there would be no doubt a duplication of specimens between those two, but there would be no duplication of collection. They are arranged from a different point of view—you want the two collections and having one does not do away with the necessity of having the other.

815. I am speaking of duplication of specimens in the British Section at the Natural History Museum and in the Jermyn-street Museum in general; there is considerable duplication.

Lord Balcarras—continued.

cation of specimens, is there not?—No doubt there must be, but may I say that Professor Judd is here, and he could answer these questions very much better than I can and with very much more authority. Although I have a general knowledge, he has a more particular knowledge. I understand there is a certain amount of Stratigraphical Geology now shown at the Natural History Museum, but, as I have always understood, that was not the original line on which it was supposed to be started, and it has been introduced lately.

816. What Electric Lighting plant have you got?—We now have a portion of the buildings on the east side of the road lighted by our own electric lighting.

817. I mean as exhibits in your collection?—Not very much; we have a few typical machines.

818. Is it not a fact that you have very few typical machines?—Very few.

819. And that branch of Mechanical Science is scarcely represented at all?—Scarcely at all.

820. What modern working models have you got?—Of electric machines?

821. No, anything; we will say marine engines?—Of marine engines we have a series; the last we have got is some eight or nine years old now, I think, but still it really quite represents the practice of the present day; that was a model made by the Jarrow people.

822. Is it not the case that the great bulk of these working models one sees in walking through the Museum were produced in the seventies?—Yes, I suppose so; perhaps some earlier.

823. Do you exhibit any of the modern applications of Science—I mean the things about which we hear a great deal nowadays—the developments of photography or phonography, and other marvels?—We do not; the actual display of such things is not very easy to carry on in a Museum. People must go to lectures and so on to see those things.

824. Have you got any of the things—the objects?—We have a certain number of photographs which illustrate different processes, from very early ones.

825. I am speaking of the most recent developments of Science—we will say the recent developments of instantaneous photography, by which a series of events may be recorded?—The Cinematograph—we have not got one.

826. Or a phonograph?—We have got a phonograph.

827. A modern one?—Not a very modern one—one of the earlier ones, I think.

828. About five years old?—Yes; probably more.

829. That would be antiquated now, would it not?—Yes; but from a scientific point of view I think more interesting probably. I think the things which show the origin and growth, from the scientific point of view are very often more interesting than an up-to-date thing, because everybody gets to see an up-to-date thing, at least, a large number of people do, without coming to the museum, but they have to go to a museum to trace the growth of it.

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830. Then



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

830. Then you exhibit these things being antiquated rather from the historical than the mechanical aspect?—Yes.

831. It is more, in fact, of a historical than an actual working model museum?—I would not say more because, as I say, certainly many of our mechanical models are quite up to the last developments.

Mr. Woodall.

832. Following up the examination to which you have been subjected, has it been at any time recognised by the Department that it was desirable in the public interest to bring models up to date, showing the most recent developments of mechanical science? Has the Department to your knowledge at any time admitted or recognised the duty of obtaining and exhibiting models showing the latest advances in mechanical science?—Yes, I think we have recognised it. For instance, we have a model of the Belleville boiler, and we have a model of the latest type of London and South Western locomotive, which we have had made for us.

833. Supposing someone interested in the subject wanted to see the most recent advances in one or other of the forms of mechanical appliances, do you think they would go to South Kensington with the expectation of finding them there?—I should think they would go to the people who made such things.

834. They ought not to expect to find them at South Kensington?—I do not think they can reasonably expect to find at South Kensington the very last machine of every possible description.

835. As a means of instruction on these subjects does it not appear to you that the Department ought to be provided with funds from which to replenish their collections from time to time by the most recent examples?—Certainly.

Mr. John Burns.

836. Would it not be interesting to students and apprentices who interest themselves in steam, heat, hydraulics, and electricity, that they should be able to see, say, the last type of the Belleville boiler on a small model scale, or an electrical rivetting machine. Do not you find that in the past large numbers of young lads and apprentices have made it a practice to go and look at your working models?—Yes, a great many of them do.

837. And would not they be interested in similar models rather more up to date than you have hitherto given them?—Well, I do not know; I think the model of our Belleville boiler is up to date.

838. Would it not be advisable that things like Parsons' Turbine, an electric rivetting machine, and perhaps two or three different types of Belleville boilers should be accessible by Penn's and Maudsley's and other engineering apprentices who are in London, and other students and apprentices who come up to London and generally make it a practice to go to the Science Museum?—Yes.

839. I speak as a lad who when he was an apprentice very frequently used to go to the Museum to see these things up to date. You are in favour of bringing these things up to date?—Certainly.

Mr. John Burns—continued.

840. And you do not think the Museum is quite so modern as it should be?—Well, I should be very glad if I could get all things absolutely up to date, but it is very difficult. If you had a model of a Belleville boiler, for instance, if every time there is some slight improvement made in that you have to make a new model, it necessitates a very great outlay.

841. I would not like to see models varied as patents are brought out, but say every year if there was a new electric rivetting machine or heating apparatus or a new type of Turbine such as that of Parsons', would it not be of interest to lads and students to see them?—No doubt, but my notion of a Science Museum is that the illustration of great principles should be the leading feature. The actual small improvement—improvements that are little things—I think are not quite so much the business of a Science Museum to take up; one cannot put in the newest type of every machine as it comes out.

842. But the historical development of a machine of any particular type would be better seized by the student if he saw the most ancient specimen and side by side or near to it the last product in that particular line?—Yes.

Mr. Woodall.

843. Has it at any time been the practice of the Department to allow inventors to exhibit models of approved machinery?—We are always ready to exhibit anything an inventor will lend us if it is good; we would be only too glad to have them send things to us. Under the Patent Act we can oblige them to send us models of anything that is patented if we pay for the models.

844. For instance the samples of school desks and fittings of that sort are usually furnished by the manufacturers, are they not?—We have done away with those now; we do not show any of these now.

845. Has there been any practice of a similar kind with regard to electrical machinery?—We always have had a considerable number of instruments and apparatus that have been lent by makers; that is a thing that has been really thrown in our teeth—that we have taken them as advertisements.

846. You feel it your duty to discriminate severely so as not to allow the place to be used merely in the interests of advertisers.—Yes.

Sir Henry Howorth.

847. Do you not think it would be better if you purchased all these instruments, and in no case exhibited on loan from instrument makers and instrument dealers with their names attached to the articles?—As regards the instruments, apart from the machines, we have really for the last few years been going on that line—to buy them. We still have some on loan, but we have not anything like the quantity we used to have. We buy them, and one advantage of buying them, of course, is that when the classes come they can use them. If they are only lent to us we cannot very well allow anybody to handle them. When we buy them they can be handled.

848. This enables you also to select a great deal more definitely what you need than if you accept



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

accept what is sent to you by enterprising people, who no doubt would like to exhibit with you?—Yes.

Mr. Woodall.

849. You are familiar naturally with the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers in Paris?—I am sorry to say I have not seen it for a good many years.

850. Do you happen to know whether it is their practice to obtain and exhibit up-to-date inventions?—It is a great many years since I have seen it.

851. Has it not been part of your duty to keep yourself *au courant* with museums of that kind?—I am sorry to say I have not been there for a good many years; I should like very much to go there again. I have had reports from other people since then.

852. By what process is the Department advised with regard to such subjects as that which my question indicates—are you not naturally the official channel of communication who advises on such subjects?—Yes, it is for me to recommend what things shall be acquired.

Mr. Bartley.

853. Do you consider this only an historical collection?—Most certainly not; as I say, I have quoted several instances where we have had made to our own order the latest developments.

854. You keep it up to date as far as your funds will allow?—That is so; what we cannot buy we try to borrow.

Mr. Woodall.

855. You are no doubt familiar with the Report presented by Sir Henry Roscoe in 1886. There is a reference made to the collection des Arts et Métiers in Paris as follows:—"The Collection is remarkably rich, both in historic apparatus and in the most recent inventions. The machinery is shown in motion two days in the week. The objects were used, when required, for the lectures given in the Conservatoire." And then there is another passage which I am sure Mr. Gray will be interested in. "Nothing is added unless it can be utilised for teaching; sometimes orders are given for models to be made, and sometimes objects are purchased. When anything is offered as a gift, it is not accepted, unless one of the Professors will state that it is really required."

856. Now I would like to know how far that description would be applicable to the Museum at South Kensington?—One may say it is generally applicable; we try to go on the same principles; we do not take anything unless it is recommended, and we try to get the latest things we can.

Sir Henry Howorth.

857. I was just wishing to ask you to define a little more precisely your functions with regard to the Museum?—Do you mean with regard to acquiring objects?

858. Yes.—My functions are that I make recommendations through the Secretary to the Parliamentary chiefs for any purchases. I am backed up in those recommendations; I take the opinions of the Professors of the College of

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

Science in their various branches, or, of course, I should have no hesitation in making a recommendation even without taking their opinion.

859. And you combine with that the general supervision of the Works Department of the Museum?—Yes.

860. Immediately under yourself is there anybody who habitually takes upon himself the duty of seeing that gaps are filled up so that the Museum is made more or less a perfect museum, instead of being merely a haphazard collection?—Yes; the Keepers of the different Divisions of the Collections. I should look on it as the duty of any officer, keeper, or assistant keeper to make a suggestion if he thinks there is a gap that should be filled up—"Here is a way of filling it up." I consider it would be his duty to say so.

861. How many keepers have you?—I have two keepers I believe.

862. What do they specially supervise?—One supervises the machinery and inventions and ship models, and the other supervises the Library and the collections for teaching—the apparatus.

863. The physical instruments?—Yes.

864. Now as a matter of fact, have you ever had in view in your Collection a collection at all like the great Paris Collection of Arts et Métiers—a great Pantechnicon illustrating the application of science to the arts; or have you merely had in view the requirements of your teaching in your Science Schools?—We have not I think sought to make ourselves perhaps quite so technical a museum, if I may say so, as the Arts et Métiers; it has been more, as I say, to illustrate the dependence of machinery on scientific principles, and, on the other hand, to show the apparatus used in teaching research in science classes.

865. The Arts et Métiers, in addition to greater completeness, profess to cover greater ground than you do?—Yes; my recollection of it—and I was looking through a report about it the other day—is that they are perhaps a little more technical than we are.

866. Do you think it is of real value to exhibit in glass cases, not in motion and without labels, a large number of physical apparatus which to the ordinary casual student are unintelligible. By label I mean a descriptive label—I do not mean merely names such as, "This is an electric machine," or "This is a voltaic battery;" but in the case of these very intricate machines, where they cannot be examined or taken out of the cases, and are merely exhibited as in a shop window, do you think that is really of any value for teaching purposes?—Well, they can be taken out of the cases if application is made, and if we are satisfied with the status of the person who makes the application.

867. Are they ever practically taken out?—Yes, some of them are; I do not know exactly what you would refer to. Take the case of a very elaborate galvanometer or something of that sort. If a teacher came and said he would like to have that galvanometer out of the case in order to examine it, if it were our property we should allow him to do it; if it were lent to us we should not.

868. But anyhow granting that they are useful would not you advise that labels should be



22 April 1898.]

Major-General F. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

attached to these intricate machines with a great deal more detailed information and description about them than there is at present or has ever been. I am speaking now as a desperately ignorant person who goes there continually and is puzzled beyond measure?—With regard to intricate physical apparatus you could not get it all on any label you could put into the case hardly; people must really be referred to accounts of the apparatus, descriptions in Proceedings of Societies, or wherever they may be described. I think it would be very difficult with these very elaborate physical apparatus to put a label on that would give the whole description of it.

869. Do not you think that there is also another lack in another direction? In collections of Art connected with Natural History there is an effort to make it complete—that is to say every form and every type?—Yes.

870. You have only collected a few prominent types such as your teaching staff might possibly illustrate their Lectures by, but would it not be a good thing if you were to enlarge the Museum so as to make it much more like the great Pantechnicon at Berlin and the Arts et Métiers at Paris.—Yes, I suppose the more things we have if they are really properly selected the better.

871. Why do you separate your Naval models and send them down to Greenwich when you retain all the other technical models at South Kensington; what was the reason for moving them down to Greenwich. There were a number of models of ships and Naval models?—They belonged to the Admiralty, and they came to South Kensington at the time the Royal School of Naval Architecture was established at South Kensington; when the Royal School of Naval Architecture was removed to Greenwich the Admiralty models went down to Greenwich.

872. They were the property of the Greenwich authorities?—Yes.

873. Why did you not send the whole—why did you retain at South Kensington—when the Naval School of Architecture went to Greenwich and you parted with some of the objects—a large number are still there?—There are other students of Naval Architecture besides those at Greenwich, and as matter of fact I believe a good many of the owners of the models did not wish them to go to Greenwich and would not have allowed them to go there. They preferred them to be at South Kensington.

874. These are on loan, are they?—A good many are.

875. What do you mean by saying there are a large number of students? You have no classes for naval architecture at South Kensington?—No, but in the country there are; and there are, of course, as I say, students of naval architecture besides those in the Government school at Greenwich.

*Mr. Bartley.*

876. Is not that one of the subjects for which grants are given?—Yes.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

877. Perhaps you would advise that the collection of Naval Models at South Kensington

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

should be made a fairly complete one, and that it should not be merely the remains of the actual collection which was mostly moved to Greenwich, but should be made a complete one?—It is not merely the remains of what was moved to Greenwich; the great bulk of the things we have there now have been received since the others were removed to Greenwich.

878. But they do not illustrate the whole of the Naval Architecture like the great collection which used to be there in former days?—I am not quite sure they do not. We have had a large quantity of details of construction of ships made for us in the dockyards for the purpose of students' study, and I do not think there is actually in the Museum at Greenwich as far as I remember.

879. In connection with that rather interesting statement you made just now, that you are authorised to secure a model of any patent on paying for it, do you exercise that right?—I do not think we ever have. In practice it is very difficult to work; we can get the thing better without the Act. A patent very often refers only to one part of a machine; and supposing we said to a patentee: "We must have a model of your patent," he would send us a model of that part, and it would not be much use to us. You see for that reason it is of no practical use, and we have to pay for it, and he could charge what price he liked. It is better to get somebody else to make it for us.

880. Where do you draw the line at the arts you think ought to be illustrated by your Museum. Art is applied science in the sense in which I use it. As to the making of bicycles and coaches and wooden legs—I am talking of the enormous mass of technical teaching that has to be done in large classes of handicrafts—where do you draw the line?—I do not know that we do draw a definite line. We cannot very well show actual processes; that is going into another line of business, as it were. It could be done, no doubt. We can really only show the machines that are used in those processes.

881. Do you profess now to have, for instance, a collection of machinery illustrating wood-cutting, which is one of the most enormous developments of the last ten years?—Yes.

882. Have you a distinct department for that?—No; we do not try to take the thing from a too technical point of view. If we were to show a whole series of wood-cutting machinery that in itself would be a museum. We rather want to take the machines that are remarkable as exhibiting some principle than to take it from the technical side, and to show all the machines that are used in a certain manufacture.

883. In your patent collections you do not make that distinction at all, do you?—You mean those that come from the Patent Office?

884. Yes.—No.

885. There you have a different principle altogether?—Well, those, of course, that have come from the Patent Office are really the historical machines; none of them are very modern.

886. Has it ever occurred to you that that part of the Museum is essentially one which might



22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

might be exhibited exceedingly well in the middle of the artizan population of London, say at Bethnal-green?—I do not know really; it is very difficult to say. I suppose you would get more artizans, but as to the actual position for the Museum—that is to say, the particular part of London in which any museum could be set up, that is a very difficult question to answer. People can travel very easily; and supposing you tried to put it in a place where more artizans lived, you might get more to see it, but you would cut it off from a great many more people. It is not only artizans that come to see machines.

887. That is quite true, but of course it is very difficult to put questions without making statements. Here is a collection which is essentially interesting, and is intelligently interesting to the great mass of people like mechanics and others, who chiefly live in the East of London and in the great Arsenals, and it is just as easy for the few who do not belong to the Technical Classes to go down to Bethnal Green as to go anywhere else. I have thought very often that that particular collection would be more interesting to the people in the East of London and to that artizan class than any other part of your collections; do you see any reason why it should not be moved there?—It is so difficult to say exactly what you would separate from the rest.

888. I take from you that you only profess to have in your Science Collections such specimens as illustrate general principles and are used in your teaching; if that be so then the great collection of patents and models which is interesting for many other reasons it seems to me might with great profit be exhibited among the artizans elsewhere; would that be your view?—I think it would be a pity. I think the artizans elsewhere might have an exhibition of their own own. I think it would be a pity to take any part of ours and put it elsewhere.

889. The Geological Museum in Jermyn-street contains a great collection of pottery to which reference was made just now; that collection of pottery in addition to a small number of objects that was got together to illustrate the different uses of clays of different kinds, contains also a very large collection of Staffordshire pottery, does it not?—I believe it does. I cannot say I am very well acquainted with the collection of pottery in Jermyn-street.

890. Whom can we have here to give us evidence about that special collection?—I think Mr. Rudler, the Curator of the Jermyn-street Museum, could give that information.

891. Would Mr. Rudler have a special knowledge of this Pottery Collection?—I believe he has a most thorough knowledge of it; I regret to say I have not, because it is not quite in my line.

892. I put a hypothetical question. Supposing it should turn out that the great bulk of this Pottery Collection is really illustrative of the Art side rather than the technical side of pottery; would you see any objection to its being transferred to the Art side of the collections at South Kensington?—Not the least.

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Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

893. In regard to the other technical collections, there is, of course, a great collection illustrating English geology?—Yes.

894. And then you have in addition a considerable number of collections—if I may use the word—illustrating metallurgy, mining, etc., etc., etc.?—Yes.

895. You have models of mining machines?—These models of mining machinery have almost all been brought to South Kensington.

896. Those two parts of the collection—the geological part and the other which is purely technical—technological—those two again are separable, are not they?—Yes, they are.

897. And you would see no objection to transferring to your own department the control of that collection which is purely and essentially technological?—No, I see no objection.

898. And you would house it?—Yes.

899. What would that involve in the shape of additional room—have you calculated it?—I have got some figures about it somewhere, but I could not tell you offhand now. I cannot remember what the actual space occupied by these different things is.

900. Is any portion of the Technological collection in Jermyn-street of a character that it would be transferred under the present scheme to the other side of Exhibition-road?—No.

901. If you were to house it at all, would it all be on the western side?—Yes.

902. With regard to the Library, I believe a portion of the Geological Library—the portion which consists of mere general literature—was transferred to you some time ago?—It was.

903. That, I think, comprised about half of the Library, did it not?—I do not remember what the proportion was; I should think something of that kind.

904. Would it not be an advantage to have the rest of the Library with you?—It would be an advantage decidedly, because they have got there a great many works that were very valuable to our students, and in some cases we really have to duplicate the things.

905. You have duplicated to some extent?—Yes, we have had to duplicate to some extent; there are certain publications you cannot do without.

906. The object of my question is rather directed to the usefulness of the site. What proportion of your students do you suppose habitually pass their time on the west side of the road where the Library now is?—On the side where the Library now is?

907. Yes; how much of the teaching is done there?—We will start, perhaps, from the other side. On the western side of the road, geology, mechanics, mining, and part of physics; on the eastern side of the road, chemistry, physics, metallurgy, and biology.

908. Are your students allowed to have books out of the Library?—The students are not allowed to have them out, but the professors can have them out.

909. Can they have books up from Jermyn-street now?—I believe so; I think there is no difficulty about their getting books from Jermyn-street if they want them.

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22 April 1898.]

Major-General E. R. FESTING, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth—continued.*

910. Is that on loan?—Yes; they can have them out of the Library as long as they want to use them.

911. There is just one question I wanted to ask you: I understand that the Exhibition Commissioners of 1851, as you told us, offered to build a Museum of Science, and offered to find £100,000?—Yes.

912. And that was declined by the Treasury?—Yes.

913. Is there any correspondence on that subject?—There was correspondence about it. I think I have notes of it here. At the time of the loan collection of scientific apparatus the 1851 Commissioners wrote to the Treasury.

914. What was the Treasury's reason for refusing this offer?—The only note I have got in this *peris* is that they decided to refuse the offer, and thought that for the present, at any rate, the development of the science branch of the Science and Art Department must be left to its normal growth.

915. Were there stipulations?—No, but as I said in my memorandum, it was "on certain conditions." I was looking it up this morning—the conditions only related to the inter-transference, as I may say, of certain plots of land. The place where the 1851 Commissioners propose to erect the Museum was facing the Exhibition-road, opposite the present Royal College of Science. A part of the site belonged to Government, and the other part of the site to the 1851 Commissioners, and the conditions were only that there should be an interchange—that Government should give up to the Commissioners a certain amount of their land in another place.

916. Do you see any objection to that correspondence being produced—it seems to me a very interesting and important correspondence. What is the date of it?—1876 to 1879—rather ancient history perhaps. I may say the only other condition was that they should be able to raise the money from the Public Loan Commissioners and pay for it by a mortgage on some of their property.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

917. With regard to the amounts credited to the Bethnal Green Museum year after year, is there any objection to giving the different items of actual expenditure at Bethnal Green—is there any objection to define the actual items of expenditure in connection with Bethnal Green instead of giving a lump sum?—I do not know that there is any objection; it is rather a question for the Treasury, I suppose.

918.—It would not be impracticable to do so?—No, I do not quite understand what you mean when you say the items of expenditure?

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S., called in; and Examined.

*Chairman.*

931. Would you favour us first of all by defining your office?—I am Dean of the Royal College of Science, and as Dean I am Chairman of the Committee of Advice to the Science Museum; that is my connection with the Science Museum.

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*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

919. A certain amount is placed under the name of Bethnal Green every year in the Estimates?—Yes.

920. There is no means of knowing whether that amount is expended on Bethnal Green?—No.

921. I want to know whether there would be any objection to such particulars being given as might show that that amount was expended on Bethnal Green for the purposes of the Bethnal Green Museum?—It would only be a matter, I suppose, in the Appropriation Account, of keeping the head of Bethnal Green separate from the rest.

922. And that is practicable?—It is practicable in a way, as far as what you may say the Technical Accounting goes, but I do not know whether after you had done it, it would be an absolutely fair representation of what Bethnal Green had cost.

923. Do you think that the amounts placed in the Estimates in respect of Bethnal Green year after year—say within the last five years at least—have been spent on Bethnal Green Museum for the actual purposes of the Museum?—Well, last year certainly it was not so. I should say that generally taking it through it is so. We do a good deal of work at South Kensington for Bethnal Green. We could have a very elaborate arrangement no doubt, and charge it to Bethnal Green somehow, but in an ordinary system of accounts it would not appear as having been spent at Bethnal Green, but as at South Kensington, and it has been for the benefit of Bethnal Green. We send gas fittings and all kinds of things there when they are asked for in a hurry.

924. For the purpose of expense you regard Bethnal Green just as you regard a single gallery of your South Kensington Museum?—Yes.

925. That being so, what is the object of putting a separate item of expenditure especially on account of Bethnal Green?—I do not know.

926. What I want to ascertain from you is whether there is any object served in naming Bethnal Green in the Estimates if you cannot show that the actual disbursements have taken place in respect of Bethnal Green only?—The object of putting it in is to give a notion of what Bethnal Green costs.

927. You mean a notion on the whole?—A notion on the whole.

928. Without your being able to define the particular items on which the amount is expended?—Yes.

929. And you think that either the whole of the amount year after year, or a large proportion of it, is expended for the purposes of the Bethnal Green Museum?—Yes.

930. That is your opinion?—Yes.

*Chairman—continued.*

932. How long have you known the Science Collections?—The Science Collections are of such a composite character that I must point out that one portion of the Collection I have known ever since my student days, for that Collection was formed by Sir Henry Delabèche and



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

and his co-adjutors in 1851. It must be remembered that the Museum at Jermyn Street was formed as much in the interest of the Royal School of Mines—which is now the College of Science—as of the Geological Survey. Only a small part of the Museum was really connected directly with the Geological Survey; much the larger part was intended as the nucleus of a great collection for teaching purposes, which was afterwards carried out on the recommendation of Sir Charles Trevelyan's Committee in South Kensington, and we have already had removed a large part of the collections, referring to Mining, to Metallurgy, and to some branches of Geology, although a large portion of the collections that should have come to the School are still retained at Jermyn Street. Those collections I have known ever since I was a student in the Institution many years ago. Then in 1876 I was requested to act as referee in the selection of objects and the arrangement of objects for the Loan Exhibition of Scientific Objects, and I became very well acquainted with that part of the collection.

933. What post did you hold at that time?—I had been up to that time a Geologist on the Geological Survey; I had resigned that post and became one of the Inspectors of the Education Department for a time. As an Inspector of Returns I acted under Mr. Matthew Arnold. The Department then asked me to give my advice with regard to these collections, and I did so. Then in 1881 I was a member of the Committee which was formed to advise the Government as to the retention of these collections, and of that Committee Mr. Spottiswoode, then President of the Royal Society, was Chairman, and a number of colleagues and myself were members of that Committee. Since that date—1881—I have been a member of the Committee of advice, and in the absence of Professor Huxley and since his death, I have constantly acted as Chairman of that Committee. I may mention too that I am more fortunate than any of my colleagues in the fact that though the Museum has not been moved to the College my part of the College has been moved to the Museum, and I am in the position that my laboratory is actually adjoining the portion of the Museum containing the objects which I use in teaching, and therefore I derive the very full benefit of making complete use of the whole of these valuable collections for teaching purposes.

934. From your knowledge which you have described to us, what is your opinion as to the value of these science collections?—I think it is absolutely impossible that the work of such a college as ours could be carried on without collections of this kind, and I am sure that in saying this I am uttering the sentiments of all my colleagues, with whom I am brought into constant contact. I am sure they all agree with me that it is of the utmost importance that the work of the College should be carried on in the closest connection with this Science Museum. We have the specimens; the apparatus at all times is brought into the College for use while we advise as to the obtaining of new specimens; our advice is always taken so far as the

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*Chairman—continued.*

money at the disposal of the Department will allow that advice to be taken, and the growth of the collections takes place under our advice and direction as far as possible.

934\*. What is your opinion as regards the completeness of the collection?—I think that if adequate space were found there are many very important additions that ought to be made to the collection. It would be desirable of course to prevent any overlapping with other collections, but that would be quite possible, while the collections might be greatly increased in usefulness by making very many additions to it.

935. Have you in your mind after consideration a clear idea of the nature of the new objects which you desire to include?—The three objects which we always bear in mind in making recommendations for the Museum are first of all that we should make the Historical collection as complete as possible, where possible by getting actual examples of the instruments used in scientific work and discovery, and where that is impossible in getting facsimiles or representations of those objects. In the second place to get together the instruments and apparatus used in the most modern researches; wherever it is possible either by gift or purchase to obtain such objects; and in the third place to provide apparatus of a kind specially suited for teaching, even the elementary teaching of Science all over the country.

936. Should you desire a considerable extension of the collection for these purposes?—I think there should be some extension, but I do not think that the extension should take place in such a way as to overlap the collections of the British Museum or any other Museum. It would be quite possible, by keeping the collections, as at present, confined to apparatus used in scientific research, and not illustrating the results of scientific research (that is the main distinction between ourselves and the British Museum). I believe it would be possible with a moderate, and I may say a considerable, extension of the collection to make it a very complete and valuable collection, and very much more valuable even than it is at present.

937. Is it possible as a matter of practice to draw any distinction between a Scientific and an Industrial Museum?—It is very difficult to say where an object is of technical value, but I do not think that in practice very great difficulty has been found. Of course, in teaching we look to the class of objects which we can refer our students to, and in the different departments of the school we have somewhat different objects; we have a technical School of Mines as well as a purely Scientific School. I believe it is possible to bring together all of the objects which are necessary for teaching purposes without getting in to the collection what is so dangerous—objects sent for mere trade and advertisement purposes. If the specimens are purchased by the Department under proper advice I believe it would be possible to make the collection much larger than at present, and get to prevent it becoming of the class that so many Industrial Museum collections become.

938. Do you think it is of importance that the collection should all be on the same side of



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued*

the road—the east or west, as may be decided? I think it most desirable that the Science Library, the Science Laboratories, and the Science Museum should all be in the very closest connection, and that those engaged in teaching in the School should be able with the greatest ease to obtain from the Museum all the apparatus necessary for their teaching on the one hand, and on the other hand to obtain all necessary works of reference from the Library. The whole of the Staff of the College of Science are unanimous in their feeling that any other arrangement between this—and divorce between the Laboratories, the Museum, and the Library—would inflict a very great injury indeed on the teaching of Science in this country.

939. And you would all wish to be on the west side of the road?—We all wish to be together.

940. That means on the west side of the road?—That must be interpreted by those in authority; whether all those collections can be put with the Art collections on the east side of the road is a question not for me to determine, but we are perfectly unanimous in the opinion that the Science Museum, the Science Laboratories, and the Science Library should be placed together, and there is no object whatever in placing them side by side with the Art Collections.

941. You want the three ranged on the same side?—Yes.

942. How far are the collections still remaining at Jermyn Street of the same nature as those which should be included in the General Science Museum?—The collections that still remain at Jermyn Street are of two kinds; there are many collections illustrating the application of geological science to mining and metallurgy, which so far as I see have no direct connection with the Geological Survey, but have a very direct connection with the teaching of geology, and might be removed at once. The collection which has such a direct connection with the Geological Survey is a collection of fossils which serve as the evidence of the work that was done in making the geological map. That geological map, so far as England and Ireland go, is now completed, although work has to be done in keeping it up to date, and the map of Scotland is far advanced. I think it most desirable that the collection of fossils made in constructing the map should be kept together and kept together for ever, as evidence of the nature of the actual materials collected in making the map. They are the proofs of the correctness of the map, and they ought always to be placed so that they can be referred to. A large part of the specimens are not like the specimens in the British Museum, remarkable for their beauty, their perfection, and a very large proportion need not be exhibited, a selection doubtless should be exhibited, but all the rest could be arranged in such a way that they are always available for purposes of reference. If that were done, I do not see that the collection at Jermyn-street—the Geological Survey Collection—would in any way duplicate or interfere with the collection as exhibited at the British Museum.

943. I rather gather from your answers that you see no objection to removing the Jermyn-

*Chairman—continued.*

street Museum to South Kensington?—If it were found more convenient to those officers of the Survey who are in charge of these Type Collections that will always remain as Type Collections, that they should be housed at Jermyn-street, I see no reason why that work should not be done as well at South Kensington as in Jermyn-street.

944. What would you leave at Jermyn-street on that hypothesis?—I think there is no reason whatever for maintaining a very small collection like that at Jermyn-street.

945. Then you would remove Jermyn-street to South Kensington?—Exactly. At present the separation is a very great inconvenience, which I, personally, feel very strongly, because the very valuable Science Library, which was founded by Sir Henry Delabèche, is now divided into two parts. Those subjects that have no direct reference to Geology are placed at South Kensington, and those that have a direct reference to Geology are retained at Jermyn-street; and although the officials allow me to take the books that I require, by sending messengers, it is, of course, a very great inconvenience for myself and the assistants and students that we have to send two miles when we want to consult a book.

946. It is, possibly, an expensive arrangement as well as an inconvenient one?—It certainly is an expensive one, because messengers have to be passing constantly backwards and forwards.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

947. With regard to this Jermyn-street collection: in addition to the division between the purely technology collection and the geological collection there is a very large collection of Metallurgy?—There is a small collection of minerals formed by Sir Henry Delabèche, and put into a horseshoe case. Then, at a later date, Mr. Ludlow, who formed one of the largest private collections in the country, through some strange freak, instead of leaving the collection to the British Museum—I think it was a personal question which caused it—left it to the Jermyn-street Museum. Only a small portion of the collection has ever been exhibited; but it is an extremely valuable collection so far as I know it. It has never been exhibited fully.

948. The Ludlow collection of minerals is a collection of general mineralogy, and is not specifically British in the sense other collections are?—No.

949. I should like to ask a question or two on this point. As a matter of fact, at this moment I believe there is no collection at all in the country illustrating general Stratigraphy; you have a collection at Jermyn-street which illustrates British Stratigraphy, but at the British Museum the collection is a paleontological collection, and there is no collection illustrating Stratigraphy in the way in which there ought to be if geology is to be thoroughly taught. Do you know of any collection?—Your statement was true, I think, some years ago under the old arrangement of the British Museum, but lately, under the advice of Mr. Etheridge, who was formerly at Jermyn-street, that collection at the British Museum has been somewhat modified, and we have a portion of their collection somewhat stratigraphically



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

stratigraphically arranged; but there is no such complete stratigraphical collection as the collection which illustrates the geographical map of the British Isles which is in Jermyn Street.

950. The new departure taken by Mr. Etheridge and the mineralogical people is quite a recent matter, on a small scale?—Yes.

951. Suppose the collections were moved from Jermyn-street, and suppose it were possible to build a gallery which should be more or less in continuity with the galleries of the British Museum—not now considering under whose authority it ought to be—would it not be an advantage, and a great advantage, to have that great collection of British stratigraphy made contiguous with the other collections illustrating geology in the British Museum?—I do not know that there would be any special advantage in that; the collection will always remain—and I think always should remain—the evidence on which the geological map of the country is constructed. We have a precisely similar case at Edinburgh; the Scotch fossils and rocks are exhibited in the Museum of Science and Art at Edinburgh, and I believe the same is true at Dublin. In both of these cases the collections which have been formed to illustrate the maps of the country are put there with the maps themselves, and everyone who wishes to study the nature of the evidence on which these maps were constructed is able to do so by visiting the museums. I do not see that England would be in a very different position if we were to adopt the same plan with regard to the collections of the Geological Survey, now that the map is completed.

952. I will put my question rather in a more concrete way: There is at the British Museum a special collection of British zoology, as you know—a very complete collection of British zoology. Now, this, in fact, would be complementary to the collection illustrating zoology; it would be a collection illustrating British zoology. No one dreams of separating these and breaking them up. Do you see any objection to its being placed in continuity and juxtaposition with the general galleries of the British Museum?—I certainly see no objection to the matter personally. Of course, it is a question of policy entirely with which I have not to deal.

953. You said just now that you were the Chairman of the Committee which had to decide about purchases. When the matter of purchase comes before that committee have you any plan or system or any general method of supplying gaps, or is it a haphazard matter which occurs to each member?—No; some time before the Committee meets a notice is sent round to every member of the committee and he is requested to draw up a paper of suggestions, and we each of us go through the galleries and draw up a list of those things which are most desirable to fill in the gaps of the collection.

954. Are these gaps in your teaching?—No; the gaps we notice in the collection as a collection. I have no doubt we are largely influenced by the requirements of teaching, but practically I believe that it comes to the same thing. It is a teaching collection, and we are teachers, and naturally we ask for those

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

things which we can use for our individual teaching, and which are of great use to science teachers all over the country.

955. Do not you think it would be an advantage if in your special department there was a very large extension of models showing the different processes of physical geology—volcanic action? I have heard this mentioned and I thought I would ask you about it.—Since I have had charge of the collection I have obtained and added to the collection models, both working models and simple models, to such an extent that the complaint is now that the Gallery will hold no more, and I have been obliged to hold my hand in the way of recommendations because of the want of space. Models, unfortunately, take up considerable space. We have had an immense number of useful models from the Italian Geological Survey, and I am in treaty with the American Geological Survey about others, but really at present the difficulty is want of space.

956. When you have added to your collection of models a model Chancellor of the Exchequer, do you think that you could add very materially to your collection?—He has never been advertised in any of the price lists and so forth I have to refer to when I want to recommend a thing. I have never heard of such an article before.

957. As to that portion of the Library which remains in Jermyn-street, how much of the original big library would it comprise?—It comprises first of all some very valuable books indeed—an old series of journals which Sir Henry Delabèche in 1851 was able to get on very advantageous terms. That was before the great American rush for books came, when series of journals fetched such enormous prices, and the Jermyn-street Museum is really one of the most valuable museums in London for scientific journals. It has been very well added to and kept up to date by Mr. Trenham Reaks and afterwards by Mr. Rudler, and if the books which are now at Jermyn-street were brought and added to the books at South Kensington, and those were kept up to date by proper purchases, the Science Library would certainly when brought together in one building be one of the finest and best in London—a most complete library.

958. You having been a member of the Survey do you consider that the Geological Survey is properly housed in their present rooms at Jermyn-street?—When I was on the Survey more than 20 years ago we were greatly pinched for space; we had two houses, one on either side of the Museum. Since then one of the houses has been taken away and new buildings erected. How they can get on with the space at their command I do not know; they certainly must be greatly hampered for room; they would not have been able to get on at all but for the fact of the school being removed from there which gave some additional rooms. I think they must be greatly pinched for want of space.

959. In your opinion it would be a great advantage to that school to have larger accommodation?—To the Survey, yes. Of course it has to be considered—this is a matter I cannot deal with officially—that the English Survey is now completed. The greater part of the work



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

is being done in Scotland. I do not know how far the work could be divided between Edinburgh and London so as to make the space which is available more suitable for the purpose.

960. Would you care to qualify that answer now in view of the statements made so frequently that considerable portions of the Survey will have to be redone?—It is possible of course that the whole of the Survey may be commenced from the beginning as has been done in some of the United States Surveys, where there has been a third and fourth Survey of the same State, but as I understand now the work consists of surveying on the six-inch scale those coal-fields that have not been already surveyed, in revising the maps and in bringing them up to date, and in some cases reconstructing the maps on the new Ordnance Survey when the original maps were made on the old Ordnance Survey.

961. What is the kind of staff that is housed in these houses—is it anything more than the Survey staff proper? The printing and the making of the maps is not done there, is it?—No, the only work of that class done in Jermyn-street is the drawing on proof sheets the lines which are to be engraved at Southampton. The engraving in my time was done at Southampton; I do not know whether it is still done there, but it is certainly done by the Ordnance Department and not by the Geological Survey Office. They do no printing or engraving.

962. Have you made a calculation of the substantial addition you would need to your exhibition space west of Exhibition-road if the wants of the next ten years for instance were to be provided for?—You mean the particular portion of the collection under my charge? In that part of the collection I think at least double the space would be required within the next ten years if it were to be developed in at all the fashion I think it ought to be, and without any overlapping whatever of other collections elsewhere.

963. Are you limiting yourself now to the geological part when you say under your special charge, or do you mean the whole of the College of Science?—I speak of the geological part only.

964. As a matter of fact do you find that these scientific instruments are used by the lecturers in their lectures—are they removed from their cases and taken into the lecture rooms to illustrate the lectures?—Constantly. Scarcely a day passes in which I do not send the ordinary form of application and have removed from the galleries into my laboratory pieces of apparatus which are used in illustration of the lectures. Perhaps I do more in that way than anyone else, because I am in the fortunate condition that my laboratory adjoins the gallery where the objects are exhibited, but I have not the slightest doubt if my colleagues were in the same fortunate position of having their laboratories adjoining the galleries they would make as much use of the collections as I do. They all make large use of it, but the objects have to be carried about half a mile through the streets in some cases.

965. Do you publish any minutes or catalogues of your special illustrative collections which might be of great service and use to teachers and students elsewhere?—About ten years ago a

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

catalogue was drawn up of the geological portion of the collection. I took the general supervision of it, although the actual work was done by a person engaged by the Department—a competent geologist, who was employed for it, but I regret to say that the additions and alterations in the collection have made the catalogue almost useless now, that being, of course, the result of constantly adding to and modifying the collections.

966. Would not you think that your catalogues up to date such as I have mentioned would be of great use and service?—They certainly would be of very great value, but it is extremely difficult to arrange that catalogues should be up to date. Naturally, as long as there are unsold copies there is a difficulty about reprinting, and at the same time if we are continually modifying the collections, as is the case with the geological part, we have removed enormous numbers of things which were thought to overlap the British Museum and other collections, and have introduced great numbers of new objects, so that there is always a practical difficulty in having a catalogue that is thoroughly up to date. Either the collection must remain in its immature state or else the catalogue will cease to be up to date.

967. Now, in your opinion, as Dean of the whole College, do you consider that the Museum should illustrate any other departments of technology than those illustrated already—do you contemplate any enlargement of its sphere, not merely of its objects?—As far as I am individually concerned the collection does meet all my requirements. If the objects which Sir Henry Delabèche first brought together as a museum of economic geology were brought there, and if mining and metallurgy were fully developed as far as my division of the subject goes, the collection would be a very complete one indeed.

968. What you mean is that if you condense the Jermyn Street Collection and yours, you would then consider the collection to be fairly complete and up to date?—Yes, provided that every care were taken in adding objects to the collection from time to time, filling up the necessary gaps, but I am well aware that in such a subject as physics, with all its application to electricity and other subjects, it might be very difficult indeed to say what space would be required to make a complete collection. I can offer no opinion on such a subject as that.

Mr. John Burns.

969. Your previous examination has indicated that if you had the determination of your own department you would locate yourself entirely at South Kensington and take what belongs to your department from Jermyn Street there: is that so?—That is certainly the case.

970. All reasons for laboratory research and for library and for administration and Museum purposes point to Jermyn Street being conveyed to South Kensington?—That is so as far as the teaching part of the collection goes.

971. Having got to South Kensington do you think that this Committee could give you, with the increased space that must go to other departments, that amount of accommodation that would suit your new location on the east side?—

It



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. John Burns—continued.

It is a matter of course on which a person like myself can offer no opinion; if there is a certain area of land and if a building of 3, 4, 5, or 6 storeys were put up of course you could get almost any amount of accommodation.

972. But for your purposes you have no objection to either side of the road, providing you can get better and increased accommodation?—Provided that we are always kept in connection with the Science Library on the one hand, and the Science Museum on the other.

973. There is one other point: In your department does any of the laboratory work or the experiments of a chemical or of a mineralogical character give off fumes or vapours that would interfere with the value of any other object near to your establishment?—We have a small chemical laboratory, but there is no danger I think, with the precautions that are taken for ventilating it that it would do harm to any other part of the building.

974. To what extent do you use your chemical laboratory? How many students are there?—I have about 80 students working at once but they do not all carry on elaborate chemical work. The amount of chemical work carried on in connection with the Geological Research is comparatively small.

975. Do you think that if you were located say in close proximity to the Art Museum or as near as you are now you could dispose of the fumes and vapour from your chemical laboratory without risk to the valuable objects in the Art Museum?—Yes, I think if the building were properly constructed that the flues might remove all vapours. I do not think it desirable to put a chemical laboratory in the midst of a number of Art Galleries. It is the last thing one would consider desirable, but I would consider it is within the resources of civilisation to carry away the fumes so as not to get into the buildings. There would be no necessary openings from the Science School into the Art Galleries.

Lord Balcarres.

976. Do you mean you guarantee your fumes do not descend having once escaped from your roof?—I think if we had a sufficiently lofty chimney to the place there would be no practical difficulty from any fumes at all events produced in the geological part of the buildings ever injuring the buildings below.

977. I speak of the Royal College of Science. There is no chimney at the top of that?—No, but the building itself is a very lofty one.

978. No doubt, and especially from the fact that it has got low buildings next to it; but when the new buildings are put there which will very likely be as large as your rusting building can you give a definite and substantial guarantee that your fumes having once escaped from that roof will not descend?—I do not think I could give a guarantee; I would go so far as to say that I think it would be most undesirable that the Scientific work should be carried on in the midst of a number of buildings devoted to Art; it would be far better that the Science buildings should be separated by the width of a road from all Art buildings whatever.

979. You contemplate that atmospheric

Lord Balcarres—continued.

conditions may bring down fumes?—Yes; during fog there is no doubt it is felt that the atmosphere does contain a great deal of matter which comes from laboratories and which does not escape in the easy way during a fog that it does at other times.

Mr. John Burns.

980. In order to secure that object the Imperial Institute with its high tower would be an admirable building for you?—I am afraid the Imperial Institute has not been designed for galleries or for laboratories, and therefore might not suit.

Lord Balcarres.

981. I suppose you do not consider yourself an official of the Science Museum?—I am an official so far as being a member and chairman of the committee which advises. I take no action whatever but the making of recommendations to the director. The director takes action.

982. If I ask you what you are, you say you are an official of the Royal College, and not of the Museum, but you are a chairman of this committee which you have mentioned?—*Ex officio*. I am a member of this committee.

983. And this is a committee that advises on all points with regard to purchases or eliminations?—Exactly.

984. Do you receive fees for your attendance?—We receive no fees; it is part of our duty as professors.

985. How often do you meet in the year?—Formerly we used to meet several times in the year, but at the present time it is found so much more easy for the director to consult us individually, that practically the work is done by individual consultation.

986. The point is that you do not get fees like the analogous people on the art side?—We do not get fees.

Sir Mancherjee Bhowmaggree.

987. Would you tell us what are the hours the students work in the college?—The students work from 10 till 4 on four days of the week, on two days of the week they leave at 1 o'clock, that is on Wednesday and Saturday, so that they have the afternoon for recreation.

988. What are the hours for recreation?—Three-quarters of an hour in the middle of the day are allowed for them to take luncheon.

989. Have they any accommodation to pass their time in?—No accommodation whatever owing to the removal of the temporary buildings. They have no place where they can sit down or take a meal, they have to go into the general refreshment room with the ordinary public. It is a great inconvenience to the ordinary public, have no place where they can sit down, so that and they if it is a wet day they have to walk about the streets under any circumstances.

990. They had such a place before these alterations?—They had the temporary buildings, which were removed at the end of last year.

991. Now they have none?—They have none whatever.

992. Is it proposed to replace that accommodation for the present?—The Council of the school have made the strongest representation to the Department, and that has been forwarded



22 April 1898.]

Professor J. W. JUDD, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.

warded to the Government, and we are in hopes. I have received no assurance whatever at present, but we are in hopes that some accommodation will be made for both the Art and Science students who are thus left without any.

993. You consider that it is absolutely necessary for the comfort as well as the work of the students?—We consider that it is not only very important for the students, but that it is also desirable in the interests of the residents in the neighbourhood and the general public. It is very inconvenient for the visitors to the Museum to find the entrances crowded with from 200 to 300 students, and the refreshment-rooms occupied just at the time when the general public want to use them themselves.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

994. You recommend the objects that are to be purchased for the Science collection?—I do.

995. To whom does the recommendation go—to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department?—To the Director of the Museum in the first instance, and then it is forwarded through the regular channels to the Secretary. I make my recommendations to the Director of the Museum, General Festing.

996. Your recommendation can be upset?—As a matter of fact, any recommendation that I make is acted upon, provided the money is available or the space in which to place the object.

997. Is it acted upon by General Festing by virtue of his own authority or after reference to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department?—I presume that in all cases he would refer to the Secretary as to the existence of funds, but otherwise, as Director, I presume he forwards my recommendation.

998. The connecting link between the Schools on the one side and the Museum on the other is the Secretary of the Department?—The Director of the Museum.

999. The Director, and not the Secretary?—It is the Director, and not the Secretary. We are both responsible; the School and the Museum are both under the Secretary of the Department.

1000. Is he, or is he not, the sole connecting link between the two branches?—Yes.

1001. I understand your recommendations are sent to General Festing that certain objects should be placed in the Museum, but General Festing cannot act on that recommendation without the assent of the Secretary of the Science and Art Department?—All purchases are made through the Storekeeper, but I am sorry that the question was not put directly to General Festing. As far as I am concerned, I draw a minute making the recommendation that certain things be purchased, and then I receive an answer that they are purchased or will be purchased, or that this year the money is not sufficient, or that there is no space available for the object.

1002. Are suggestions made to you from the Director of the Museum that objects might be purchased?—Frequently the Director of the Museum consults me informally—asks whether I think that anything could be done to fill up certain gaps which his notice has been called to.

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued

1003. And therefore the function of suggesting the purchase of new objects rests with the two of you—your Committee on the one side and the Director of the Museum on the other?—Yes.

1004. You both may suggest?—Yes.

1005. And then there is consultation between you as to the desirability?—Yes.

1006. And the Secretary decides?—Yes.

1007. With regard to these special catalogues, is it impossible to prepare special catalogues of portions of the collection for circulation throughout the country to place in the hands of teachers engaged in special branches of scientific work?—The catalogues are all arranged at present in that way. There is a catalogue sold at twopence, for example, for the collections of Physiography and Geology, and another for the department of Physics. The whole can be got together bound into a book, or the purchasers can obtain any one of these small pamphlets.

1008. Do you happen to know whether these catalogues are enumerated in the circular that is published very frequently of official publications?—I cannot say that from my knowledge.

1009. I think the Queen's printer sends out two or three times a year a circular giving a list of official publications, thereby drawing attention to useful publications of a scientific character, but you do not know whether your catalogues are on that list?—I should think they would be, but I cannot say from my actual knowledge. I may state, perhaps, as showing what is done in making these things known to general teachers, that a large body of teachers is brought up every year; I generally have about 50 teachers who come up in their vacation, and then they constantly make use of the Science Museum; they are conducted round by the Professor and his assistants; all the objects we have are pointed out and the way in which these may be employed for teaching is illustrated. Then in return I get from conversation with these teachers, who tell me what their peculiar requirements are, such suggestions which lead me in turn to make recommendations to the Director of Science, and of late I have obtained a large series of objects which could be purchased at a very low price—specimens suited for teaching purposes and these are placed in the gallery and also sent out on loan to the various schools.

1010. Those are teachers of organised science schools?—They are generally teachers, ordinary elementary teachers, who come up in their holidays, and they hold science classes. I do not know whether a teacher who does not teach science in a class would be brought up, but I know as a matter of fact from conversation with them that they are men actually engaged in teaching in the elementary schools, and I am brought in connection with them every year in large numbers.

1011. Do they attend at their own expense?—Partly at their own expense; their travelling expenses are paid, and they are allowed a small maintenance allowance, but I am told that the amount allowed is not sufficient to cover all their expenses, but nevertheless there is never any difficulty in getting together as many men as we can instruct in our laboratories, which are somewhat limited in size. I instruct about 50 every year for three weeks during their own holidays. [Adjourned to Tuesday, 26th April



Select Committee on  
House of the Senate and the Department  
1893

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

1893

Witnesses: George S. Johnson, Secretary of the  
Department of the Interior, and others.  
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1893



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 22nd April 1898.*

<i>Major-General Sir John Donnelly, K.C.B.</i>	-	49
<i>Major-General E. R. Festing, F.R.S.</i>	-	52
<i>Professor J. W. Judd, F.R.S.</i>	-	62

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

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ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 29th April 1898.*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
LIBRARY

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*Friday, 29th April, 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarres.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. J. C. L. SPARKES, called in; and Examined.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1411. What is your position?—I am Principal of the Royal College of Art.

1412. You are the head of the body which gives the fine art education in connection with the Science and Art Department?—Yes, we call it industrial art; fine art is not a part of our mission.

1413. As an official of the Art School you come into contact, I presume, with the Circulation Department of the museum?—Yes.

1414. Your Royal College of Art I have always understood to be a successful place, and I presume you have views upon the nature of objects and the process of selecting and receiving those objects from the South Kensington Museum for your circulation? I should like to know your view, generally speaking, about the quality and nature of the objects which you consider to be pertinent to an industrial art school.—We use these objects in two different ways.

*Chairman.*

1415. What do you mean by "we"?—The staff of the college—the teachers of design. There are two classes of students. One of designers who would require works of art from the museum for the sake of suggestion—for the sake of study towards their own ends; then there is another class of masters in training to become teachers who require these things not so much with a view to any industrial art calling but as a means of general education in the history of art or the history of processes or anything of that sort. So that there are two different views. The objects in the museum are employed to supply both demands.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1416. Supposing you want a bit of brocade or a piece of majolica, what is the process of your getting it now?—We do not get it; we send our students to study it in the museum. The objects we get into the school are those that are in circulation and which are there for the purpose of 0.5—8.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

our school among others obtaining them—not our school specifically.

1417. I must be more clear about that. Suppose there is a piece of textile in one of the cases, which are perhaps fourteen or fifteen inches apart at South Kensington, and you manage to see between these cases that this is an object which would be useful for your students to copy, cannot you get that out of the museum?—I think we could now, but a few years ago we could not.

1418. Was it impossible a few years ago to get it out of the museum?—The theory of the museum authorities was that the students had to come to the museum and the museum could not go to the students; therefore objects of that description would have been refused to us.

1419. Is the theory now that students have to go to the museum?—I have not tested it. I should say not. I think at present it would be easy—at any rate easier.

1420. Tell me the process. Supposing you are agreed with one of the officials in the museum that it is proper for a certain object to be taken out of the museum to be put into your schools, what is the official process of getting it?—I should write a requisition for it. If there was no objection it would be sent through circulation to the schools in a very short time. I am speaking of the present process.

1421. How long do you think it would take—a week?—Oh, no; objects which are in circulation would only take half-an-hour, at present nothing could be more direct.

1422. You say at present—is this a new system?—Yes.

1423. What is the old system, and how old is the present system?—The old and very cumbersome system was modified in 1891 to some extent; I believe it existed, but it was shortened by the action of the official in charge of Circulation.

1424. What was the official system in 1891?—The processes were these: after I had selected and



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SPARKES.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

and requisitioned the objects the Registrar of the Royal College of Art sent it to the Registry. The Registry sent it to the Assistant Director for Art, Mr. Bowler, the Assistant Director for Art sent it to the Keeper of the Museum, Mr. Wallis; the Keeper sent it to Circulation; Circulation sent it to the Art Director, Sir Philip Owen; the director of the Art Museum sent it back to Circulation; circulation sent it to Stores; Stores sent it to the Royal College of Art and it took a week.

1425. That is somewhat cumbrous as you say; that I understand, however, has been reformed now.—Yes, I believe in 1894 the processes were shortened, but from 1891 the papers made their round, but the objects came more or less straight so that it was modified.

1425\*. Do you believe that sending objects round to schools and colleges—speaking of the higher class of education—do you consider that sending round objects of beauty is an incentive to students to improve their feeling for colour and texture and design?—Certainly I do.

1426. You attach great importance to effective circulation?—Certainly.

1427. Do you ever have objects which are intrinsically valuable in your Royal College of Art?—No.

1428. Are you aware that in the Birmingham College of Art objects intrinsically valuable are displayed?—I am told so.

1429. Have you any reason to disagree with the authorities of that school that it is good for the students to have essentially beautiful objects continually before their eyes?—I quite agree with them; I think it is most important.

1430. Would you agree with a system by which your college could to some extent share in the benefit which Birmingham is obtaining in this matter?—Yes, undoubtedly; but we are in a very different position to that of any country school; we are under the same roof, and we can take our students to the object in a minute.

1431. Is that the same thing—that the student should have to go to an object which may be a quarter of a mile off?—It is not quite the same thing.

1432. And an object which is not necessarily amidst other objects of a similar character, does not that rather differentiate the case?—It does a little.

1433. May I conclude, therefore, by believing that you think the system of circulation is one of great value, and which might efficiently be extended?—I do.

Mr. Woodall.

1434. You have said that you at South Kensington suffer no inconvenience from these choice and valuable objects not being brought into the school itself?—No; I cannot say I do.

1435. Because it is perfectly convenient for the student to go into the museum and study them there?—Yes.

1436. I suppose that in the provincial schools objects are sometimes placed in the school itself; at other times they are placed on circulation in the museums provided as part of the whole equipment of a school of art? From the point of view of the necessity of safeguarding objects of this kind, do you think that as a rule the

Mr. Woodall—continued.

authorities are justified rather in keeping them locked up in cases accessible in the museum, rather than being distributed in the class-rooms themselves?—Oh, yes; as a rule I think they are quite justified, nor do I think any valuable object ought to be loose, so to speak, in the class-rooms. I think that exposes them to too much risk, but I think in certain cases the responsible director of a local museum might have access to them without any chance of loss or damage. In studying an object it depends on what the object is. You have frequently to handle it, you have to look at its construction, you have to look at the method in which enamel, for instance, is applied; you may gaze at it while it is in a case, but you would be quite certain that your doubt would be solved if you could handle it and observe it closely.

1437. Do you know what the practice of the department is in regard to objects on circulation sent down and exhibited in cases? Is there any local authority entrusted with the key of these cases?—I do not know, but I believe that the keys are kept in South Kensington.

Mr. Kenrick.

1438. Pursuing your answer to my honourable colleague, you would give the same authority, I presume, to an art master in a school as you would to a director of a museum for handling the objects, because all you said went to show the importance that the art master should have the same privilege of handling these objects sent down and put for safe custody in a case, as you would give to the director of the museum?—Quite so; I regard the art master as a person qualified to make the best possible use of any object he wished to examine or use as an object lesson for his students.

1439. In fact, with regard to his students and in his school he is the person to be entrusted with the handling of these objects?—I quite agree with you.

1440. My question, of course, was directed to circumstances like those prevailing at Birmingham, where the South Kensington authorities have sent down objects to be exhibited in the school of art, in addition to the objects to be exhibited in the museum, and, in such a case, I understood you to say that you would give the same privilege to the art master with regard to the objects exhibited in the art school that you would give to the director of the museum with regard to objects exhibited in the museum?—Yes, that is my answer; I would give the same privilege.

1441. Then I also understand from a previous answer of yours that you attach considerable importance in the teaching of art to the presence of examples of art objects in the school itself?—Undoubtedly.

1442. To be used by the teacher for the instruction of his students?—That is so.

1443. That he might be able to handle, and that he might be able to lecture upon them?—Yes, that must be still more the case in country schools that are not so fortunately situated as that of Birmingham, the centre of a very large population. There must be many scattered schools in which the students have not really any



29 April 1898.]

MR. SPARKES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Kenrick—continued.

any opportunities of seeing a good object unless they get it in that way, or go to central museums in their own district, or come to London.

1444. I am not sure whether at the Royal School of Art you carry out technical processes?—We do not; we are not allowed to do that.

1445. Does not it strengthen the case very much in schools where technical processes are taught?—I think it does.

1446. That the objects should be exhibited in the school—for instance, take enamel—that enamel should be exhibited in the school and that the art master should have an opportunity of taking them out of the cases, and explaining their merits?—Undoubtedly.

1447. You would make a difference, I presume, between schools and schools?—Yes, and between masters and masters.

1448. In the case of a large central school like Birmingham, you would be in favour of granting privileges which you would not to a small school in a country district?—Yes; naturally a very small school would not have the space or opportunity of exhibiting or housing the articles. If I might illustrate what I have said by a concrete example, when some years ago I assisted Sir Henry Doulton in the development of his art pottery I found that we must have a museum; we could not really get on without a museum on the spot, and there is now a very important museum from the point of view of art and technique, in those buildings opposite to us, which was formed really out of the needs of the case; we had to refer so constantly to the methods, and especially to the colours and various things, that that museum was formed under my direction for the sake of helping forward the technical work which had been begun.

1449. So that it amounts to this—that wherever there is technical work as part of the curriculum or school course it is absolutely necessary to have a museum?—It seems to me to be so.

Mr. Woodall.

1450. Did you confine the objects which were so collected to pottery, or to the particular kind of pottery which Sir Henry Doulton was reviving?—To pottery in the abstract—not to any particular kind of pottery. As a fact there was very little of stoneware pottery to be collected; the stoneware pottery developed for us was developed by our own experiments, so to speak—there was nothing like it beforehand, so that we had no museum objects to guide us.

1451. Speaking generally of objects which are useful in a district such as the Potteries, for instance, you would not limit the selection of such examples merely to a narrow class bearing directly upon the particular branch of art?—Oh no, because I think an artist may gain a suggestion for pottery from a textile, for instance. I think that in all schools where design is taught the widest possible selection should be submitted for the sake of the suggestion these things may give.

Sir Henry Howorth.

1452. Do you think it would be a wise thing to arrange these local schools and museums in a kind of hierarchy, so as to make some great 0.5—8.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

central museum the immediate subject of correspondence with the department, and letting that centre really work the surrounding satellites—the schools with the museum?—I had not thought of it, but it seems as if some such system would be required—that if there were a very large demand for objects to 260 Schools of Art, for instance, it would be more economically worked, I should take it, from two or three centres in the kingdom than from one centre.

1453. Would you not also increase your efficiency by classifying different parts of England according to the industries existing in them, and then making centres in each of these districts for distribution?—I think that would come out naturally.

1454. And instead of having a correspondence with each small item, you would really then correspond with the organisation, which need not be a single man but a committee which should take charge of the whole district—would not that be a more economical and a better plan?—So far as I understand it seems to me practicable and feasible.

1455. I am speaking only with regard to the distribution of objects. I am not speaking about administration in any other regard. Have you ever distributed from South Kensington, in addition to completed objects, materials showing the *modus operandi*—the methods of manufacture—in other countries than our own?—I am afraid I cannot answer because I do not know the exact nature of all the objects that we use in circulation. I only know those with which we have to deal. I do not recall any such instance of processes being exhibited.

1456. You have not had anything in your own immediate sphere answering to illustrations of native methods of making enamel and pottery in India for instance, such as have been exhibited in Kensington itself?—No; I do not think so. No doubt there are enormous numbers of objects in the museum, and from that great mass, such a collection as you suggest could be made—that is to say, the treatment of enamels in different nationalities. I have no doubt the material is there for such a selection, but I do not know that it has been made. It could be made, I take it, by the local schools or museums who would wish to have such a collection.

1457. Let me put a critical case rather of the sort of thing I mean. Of course, enamels when cold and before they are burnt are a different colour to what they are when the object is burnt and finished?—Yes.

1458. What means have you in the shape of objects illustrating to students the effect of burning on these different substances in regard to their colour, and making harmony, and so on—how is it taught?—I do not think we have any. It would be very difficult to keep, because enamel, for instance, is in a state of powder before it is fired, and glaze is in a state of powder.

1459. How would you set about teaching a student to paint a plate in a set of colours, when the colours you absolutely apply to the plate are as remote as possible from the finished effect?—That, I think, must be a matter of individual experience



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SPARKES.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

experience on the part of the painter. He will make his mistakes, and learn by them.

1460. Cannot that be taught—is it never taught, as it is abroad?—Only approximately, I think, it can be taught. I think, in pottery, nothing but experience will give the knowledge. It is a very heart-breaking calling, that of the potter.

1461. I was only thinking, in putting these questions, of some remarks made to me by one of your famous art potters, who wrote the two books on the subject—Solon—about the enormous difficulty that handicraftsmen have in the potteries in dealing with this particular side of the matter from their ignorance of the processes involved?—I might answer you by saying that some years ago I had many conversations with the late Sir Henry Doulton as to the advisability of adding a technical class to the City and Guilds School—which now exists in Kennington—a technical class for potters, and he came to the conclusion that it was much too large a subject to be attempted, and he did not see how his workmen or his artists would benefit for many years, and the project was not carried out.

*Mr. Woodall.*

1462. But you know there is such a technical class at Burslem, probably the only one in England?—Yes.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

1463. Do you say then you do not think it would be possible and feasible and wise that the men who are teaching the art workmen in the potteries should be able to tell any particular student how a certain tile, for instance, or the effect of a certain beautiful blue Persian tile is to be produced if he wants to carry it out—do you not think it possible that that can be taught and that it ought to be taught?—What can be taught of course; the man who is using cobalt of a certain quality knows it is quite a pale colourless grey when put on the tile, and when it comes out of the fire he knows it is a rich blue. That is taught in a sense in five minutes; you tell the student “This will come out blue,” and when the thing is fired he sees it does. That, of course, is simple enough; that can be taught.

1464. It seems that ought to be taught by means of examples, and by means of illustrations of a concrete kind from the countries where those objects are actually being made at this moment?—Certainly; and I think that is one of the uses which the Circulation Department of the Museum subserves very well indeed.

1465. Let me give you an example of what I mean, because I feel a little anxious about that. When we had the Indian Museum in London, Mr. Clarke took the trouble to get from these handicraftsmen a great many of their trade secrets and their methods and their little instruments used in their different processes. It seems to me that a process of that kind of concrete knowledge, not out of a book, but the actual things used by these men in their processes, as gathered in this way would be a desperately useful thing to your potters and ironsmiths in the midland counties who are trying to imitate these

*Sir Henry Howorth*—continued.

processes, which are only known, as a matter of fact, to these native artificers; would you not think so?—I do think so, undoubtedly, but it must have a limited application to our work in England. For instance, those men all burn their wares with wood; we use coal. At once an enormous difference in the technique, from the beginning to the end, is introduced. The sand of which their tiles are made we may not have, and probably do not have; and so with the colours in the same way. The colours may not have the same impurities in them; ours may be too pure, or not pure enough, and we cannot get exactly the same material. Pottery is an exceedingly complicated technique; there is nothing so complicated.

1466. Have you had substantially many complaints about the class of objects that you have distributed?—I have never heard any. I have have nothing to do with the distribution of these objects.

1467. You come in contact with the art teaching so much that I thought you might have heard whether the class of objects and method of distribution is more or less ideal?—I have heard of it in a general way, and I heard that the School of Art in Birmingham had solved that difficulty by getting a collection of its own.

*Mr. Kenrick.*

1468. Have you ever seen the set of examples of Cloisonné enamel in various stages sent round? I am not sure whether it came from South Kensington, but we have a set showing the various stages in the process. Have you seen that?—No; I have not.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

1469. Does your correspondence with the local schools take place directly, or is it through other officials?—Through the officials.

1470. Through other officials?—Yes.

*Mr. Woodall.*

1471. Have you any direct official relations with provincial schools?—No; I have not; my relations with them are indirect. When an application is made for an art master to take charge of a provincial school the papers are sent over to me. I then put down the names of men whom I recommend; write their testimonials, which are copied in the office; and urge the man's claim as well as I can.

1472. That is part of your duty as the Principal of the Training College at South Kensington?—Yes.

1473. But it does not impose on you any particular official responsibility for advising either in the selection or in the conduct of the school, if that school be outside South Kensington?—No; none whatever.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

1474. When does that most excellent school over which you preside lose, unfortunately, your services by lapse of time?—My time was out on the 16th of last month, but it was extended till the 28th of July.

1475. You were then 65?—I was 65 on the 16th of March.

1476. Does



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SPARKES.

[Continued.]

*Chairman.*

1476. Does the month of July mark the end of the school term?—Yes; the last Friday in July is the last day of the term.

1477. I presume in what you said to us as to permission to handle objects you have regard to the great importance of their preservation?—I should think if such permission were granted, the nature of the object, the class of object that would be sent from South Kensington would be such as would be fitted to be used in that way without chance of damage. Priceless things would not be sent.

1478. We know some of these things require the most delicate manipulation?—Undoubtedly.

1479. Should you have regard to that circumstance?—Surely I should.

*Mr. Foxall.*

1480. Supposing what is now known as the Science and Art Department, plus the museums and the Royal colleges at Kensington, were in the future to be divided into two parts living at South Kensington and for the administration of South Kensington only the Museum and the Royal Colleges, would you regard that as being in any way likely to injure the work of the Museum or the Royal Colleges of Science and Art?—That is precisely what they are now—a museum plus schools of science and art. I do not understand the change you propose.

1481. There is also the Science and Art Department which makes grants to art classes?—

*Mr. Foxall—continued.*

That is an official institution that has simply offices, and places for examination papers, and so on.

1482. And the removal of that from South Kensington would not in your opinion injure the work which now goes on in the museum?—Not a bit.

1483. May I ask, does the Royal College of Art possess any organic connection with the various schools of art in the towns of the provinces?—No, I should say not. The schools of art have this right: if their master is ill or incapable they can apply to us for a temporary master, and he is supplied by us from the training class; that is a kind of organic connection.

1484. There is no such arrangement as this—that from a provincial school of art, say at Birmingham, Nottingham, or Bradford, there should be scholarships obtainable which should be tenable at your college?—The various county councils, especially Lancashire and Yorkshire and Norfolk, send us their students who have obtained scholarships. Then there is a comparatively large class of scholars who are called Royal Exhibitioners, and a rather smaller one called local scholars, who are elected from any school of art in the kingdom; they are the students who have taken the highest marks in the year's examination. They hold their scholarships at South Kensington, at least the Royal Exhibitioners do, and in that sense there is an organic connection between the schools and ourselves.

Mr. A. B. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A., called in; and Examined.

*Lord Balcarras.*

1485. What is your position?—I am the Assistant Director of the Art Museum at South Kensington. I think you will find in the Calendar, where the titles are put down, I am simply Assistant Director.

1486. Have you anything to do with the Science Museum?—Practically nothing.

1487. Have you read the evidence given before this Committee last Session, or any of it?—I have looked over a good deal of it.

1488. Do you remember the evidence given by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, in which he said that he attributed the skill—the expertness, in fact—of the officials at the British Museum to the fact that they were put into particular departments on entering the museum service, and that they were retained there without being moved from department to department?—Yes.

1489. Do you agree with that opinion?—I do perfectly agree with it.

1490. I want to ask you a few questions as to your official duties apart from the question of looking after your museum objects. As assistant director of the museum have you ever had to make probationary reports? Do you know what a probationary report is?—It is a report as to the fitness of a new officer for service.

1491. After the first twelve months' service?—Yes.

1492. Have you ever had to make one?—I think in one instance, as far as I can recollect, I have done so. I was asked to do so and I did it.

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*Lord Balcarras—continued.*

1493. How many years have you been at South Kensington?—I have been there since 1879.

1494. During the time in which you have occupied a position of sufficient importance for you to have to make these probationary reports you have only made one?—That is all I can recollect. I am pretty certain I am right.

1495. Was that report a favourable one?—Certainly.

1496. You have never had to make an unfavourable report?—Not a probationary report.

1497. What do you report about?—I should report upon the efficiency of that particular officer as to whether I thought he was a proper person to help me in carrying on the work of the museum.

1498. Whom would you make your report to?—I should make mine to the director.

1499. Whom would the director send it on to?—I should imagine he would send it on to the secretariat.

1500. What is its ultimate destination?—I understand that that report would stay in the department.

1501. We are at cross purposes. I mean the probationary report which is exacted by the Civil Service Commissioners from officers in your position about subordinates after their first year's work?—Certainly. Might I explain. I made inquiries about it, as I am sorry to say I was not very well up in the matter, and I found it was only in the matter of second-class clerks that

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29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

that the Commission demands a report, and that report is sent to the Audit Office at the end of the probationary year; otherwise that clerk would not get his salary.

1502. May I ask what is your authority for making that statement? Whom did you ask? —I asked a gentleman in the secretariat.

1503. In question 1077 you will see this: "I gather that at the end of the first year a report on every official at South Kensington is made to my Lords on his qualifications"; and then there is this answer by the secretary of the department: "No, a report is made to the Civil Service Commission."—Well, I made careful inquiry, and that was the answer I was given.

1504. Is your answer in direct conflict with the statement made before this Committee by the Secretary?—They do not seem to tally.

1505. We must be precise on this point. Will you again read the evidence I have referred you to (*handing the evidence to the witness*). You therefore disagree with the statement made by the Secretary of the Department that at the end of the first year a report on every official at South Kensington is made to the Civil Service Commission?—I understand that only in the case of second class clerks that is done, and in the case of others it is not done.

1506. There the matter must end—have you got any official control over the Museum at Bethnal Green?—None whatever.

1507. Who has?—It is managed by the Directors.

1508. You mean by Mr. Clarke?—And General Festing.

1509. The Science and Art Directors?—Yes.

1510. As Assistant Director your duty is confined to South Kensington alone?—The Art branch of South Kensington; if General Festing is away I first sign papers for him so that things shall not stand till he comes back.

Chairman.

1511. Pure matters of routine?—Yes.

Mr. *Yoxall*.

1512. Do you refer to the absence of General Festing during vacation?—Yes.

1513. And not on casual occasions?—No.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1514. If you want an exhibition case for your Museum what process do you go through before getting it?—I should explain to the Director that we were running short, and he would in all probability mention the matter to the authorities who have the arrangement of ordering cases.

1515. Do you mean that you and Mr. Clarke between you are not the authority for ordering cases? I am speaking of the Art Museum?—I can hardly say that we are.

1516. Pray be more precise; that is a perfectly succinct question on an obviously official point; you are governed by the most carefully regulated bye-laws, and I must really press for a definite answer. I asked whether you and Mr. Clarke as Director and Assistant Director were not the primary and sole authorities as to cases for the Art Museum?—We should ask for them for the Art Museum distinctly.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

1517. From whom?—We should ask General Festing as the Director in charge of Works.

Mr. *Yoxall*.

1518. Would General Festing have to ask Sir John Donnelly?—I think not.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1519. Do you make your drawings for the cases?—They have been made many years; we generally have a standard case.

Sir *Henry Howorth*.

1520. Do you not put in estimates for these cases at the beginning of the Parliamentary year?—A certain amount of money is set down for cases, certainly.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1521. Before the annual estimates are framed in the month of November, or thereabouts, are you requisitioned to make your estimates of moneys likely to be required during the coming financial year for furniture and cases?—I personally am not asked; the Director of Art, Mr. Clarke, may be asked by General Festing.

1522. General Festing, we understand, is responsible for the cases?—He is responsible for works, and through him the cases are ordered.

1523. He is in no way responsible, I presume, for the design?—No.

1524. That is entirely within your responsibility?—We can alter the design if we wish, certainly.

1525. The design of the cases is the design invariably which you and Mr. Clarke settle as the necessary design?—Certainly.

1526. Have you ever had any difficulty in getting as many cases as you want?—We may not always be able to have exactly what we want, because there are other divisions amongst whom the money is allotted, and who must have cases also, and there may be instances in which they may want more for a certain purpose than we do, and then we give and take.

1527. I asked if you ever had any difficulty in getting the cases you wanted; do I conclude from your answer that you have had difficulty?—Sometimes we do not get exactly what we want.

1528. The amount you want?—The amount.

1529. I do not mean design?—No; it has nothing to do with design, it is the amount.

1530. How often last year did you get as many cases as you wanted?—I speak for the Art Museum only—the floor space of the Museum. I do not think I ought to say that there was any great difficulty. We did not have cases actually for the floor of the Museum, but then we had a great many cases for circulation, as there was an extra demand.

1531.—There was an extra demand for cases for circulation?—Yes; they are folding cases—a different build of cases from ours.

1532. And that comes out of the Art Museum Vote for cases?—Yes.

1533. Roughly speaking, you can always get as many cases as you want?—Yes, I think so, certainly.

1534. Will



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

1534. Will you tell me, please, about the technical assistants; how many technical assistants have you got in the Art Museum?—I think we have nine.

1535. Do they belong exclusively to the Art Museum?—I have not got the exact number; I think it is nine.

1536. Do you know what a technical assistant is; does not the term "technical assistant" convey to your mind a perfectly clear and definite meaning?—No; I do not think it does.

1537. Are there people at South Kensington called technical assistants?—There are, certainly.

1538. There are these people at South Kensington Museum; I have no doubt their position is as ill-defined as the position of others at South Kensington Museum; but granted that they are called technical assistants, how many of these persons are working for you in the Art Museum?—In the actual museum I have none at present; in the circulation there are two.

1539. There is no technical assistant in the Art Museum?—No; I had one only a little while ago, but that one I had was transferred to circulation.

Chairman.

1540. Who was he?—Mr. Beaumont.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1541. Is a technical assistant an officer not required in the Art Museum?—I prefer to have officers who are on the permanent staff; that is, men who are paid a monthly wage. Mr. Beaumont was an excessively useful man, only it was an improvement for him, he having served for a good many years in the Museum, to be put into the circulation.

1542. Were you able to spare him?—I could ill spare him, but I did spare him.

1543. Is your staff smaller by his transference?—It is for the present, until I get a new junior assistant.

1544. As to art repairers, how many art repairers have you got in the Art Museum?—I have seventeen art repairers, five seamstresses, and five labellers.

1545. As to the art repairers, do these gentlemen take their orders exclusively from either yourself or Mr. Purdon Clarke?—Yes.

1546. They are exclusively your servants?—They are.

1547. They are not subject to removal from one branch of the Museum to the other?—No.

1548. They can be considered permanent art servants?—Certainly.

1549. What about the seamstresses; there are five do you say?—Yes.

1550. Are they in the same category?—Yes.

1551. They are exclusively your servants?—Yes.

1552. And not subject to removal?—No.

1553. They are not borrowed from the general body of servants, and subject to removal from one branch to the other?—They are always with me.

1554. I do not know whether the term "art seamstresses" is legitimate, but they are permanent servants of the art side?—They are.

0.5—8.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

1555. Just in the way that the Art repairers are not subject to be moved to Science?—Certainly.

1556. What was the other branch?—I mentioned labellers.

1557. Just explain these briefly?—I have five of them; they write our labels—the larger tickets you see against the objects in the Museum.

1558. Are they exclusively in the Art Museum?—Yes.

1559. They do not write tickets for the Science Museum?—No, they do not.

1560. How about your printing?—I have no printing myself.

1561. For your labels?—The labels are done by the Stationery Office; a few are done by Stores, but they are comparatively few; the majority of my printing is done by the Stationery Office.

Sir *Henry Howorth*.

1562. What are your definite functions in the Museum?—My definite functions are the administration of the offices in the Museum under the director.

1563. You have no special department?—Yes, in the new division. I have taken one department myself.

1564. What is that department?—I have taken the Italian Sculpture and other sculpture in the Museum. Most of the sculpture is Italian.

1565. I wish you would tell me the names and define the functions in the same way of your colleagues who have taken the other departments.—The official next to me is Mr. Kendrick. He has taken over the section of textile fabrics, embroideries, and laces, and he just looks after the labels and other little matters connected with the picture gallery. That was his desire; I asked him what he would like to have. The second is Mr. Lehfeldt; he has taken over the wood work, including furniture, and the third is Mr. Wylde, and he has taken over all the pottery and enamels.

1566. You still have one department—the ironwork?—For that I have no assistant keeper at present. I am short of one, but a junior assistant is working that division very admirably—Mr. Mitchell. That makes five divisions I think, and that finishes it.

1567. This division and separation of functions is rather a new departure in the museum, is it not?—It is quite new.

1568. It meets with your approval I hope?—Absolutely.

1569. And in future each one of these officers will devote himself, I presume, to the special study of that particular branch over which he presides?—Quite so.

1570. You will limit him in his administrative work to that particular department as much as you can?—Perfectly. I limit him to that section as much as ever I can; I make them spend their whole time at it.

1571. And you propose that they shall prepare catalogues if such should be necessary in their own departments?—Certainly.

1572. With regard to purchases, we will limit ourselves now to your own special department. What freedom have you in recommending purchases



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

chases or in suggesting the purchase of certain objects in your department?—I have perfect freedom in recommending or suggesting.

1573. Would the other heads of departments have the same freedom that you have?—You mean the heads of the four sections?

1574. Of course, we take it for granted that Mr. Clarke is supreme in the whole museum?—Certainly.

1575. And without his consent and authority nothing can be done of any kind by any of you?—Certainly.

1576. I am now speaking of the corresponding method to that in the British Museum by which the specialist in each department should have a very distinct voice in the selection of objects for his department, and I was wondering how far that is so in your own case and that of your colleagues?—It can hardly be said to have commenced yet; we are very new at it.

1577. And you propose that presently it would be the function of the man in charge of the pottery to recommend with regard to pottery, and also to decide himself as to a matter being a forgery or a genuine article in the same way that the responsibility is put on the keeper in the British Museum?—To make it work ideally he certainly should do so in time—when he is quite at expert at it. At present we are, of course, in our infant stage in the divisions.

1578. I suppose that as the museum is now constructed it has not been possible to separate these different classes in the museum itself, so as to bring each class together?—I am sorry to say no.

1579. Does that apply to every division? Are not there one or two divisions in which you have been able to condense them into one section? Take the pottery.—Yes, we have done so fairly well. Pottery perhaps is rather scattered now. Textile fabrics are pretty well together, but, of course, Oriental ones are not with the Western.

1580. Is your ideal of arranging a museum like yours that you should have all the pottery together, and all the furniture together, and all the ironwork together, so that you should have certain periods of art development illustrated by all the articles in use at the time, say a Louis Quatorze room, a Louis Quinze room, and a Louis Seize room, in which you should have the furniture, pottery, glass, and the other art products exhibited together as illustrating the period and type of art?—I think it very valuable to have all the pottery together, and all the metal-work together. At the same time I should not like not to be able to have rooms as you suggest.

1581. You think it would be an advantage in addition to a classified series illustrating the whole of one branch of art, that you should also have what I may call historical collections on a small scale illustrating for artists and others the various objects of a particular period?—Certainly.

1582. For that purpose would you require in your new museum, not merely a few large galleries, but also a considerable number of smaller rooms in which that kind of exhibition could take place?—Certainly.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

1583. Have you had in view at all what would be the most economical and best arrangement of the plan of a museum to carry out such a scheme as that. Would you have the rooms all together, or would you have the smaller rooms round the large courts?—I am afraid I have hardly thought about it.

1584. You are aware that Mr. Clarke has recently fitted two or three Old English rooms?—Yes.

1585. And it is rather on the lines carried out in those rooms, I presume, and also in the rooms where you now have the tapestries, where you also have Italian furniture and other objects, that you would like to carry out that particular kind of historical exhibition, I suppose?—In that way, certainly.

1586. I should like you to give rather a more definite answer. Have you any view, yourself, about the best method of arranging the exhibition space so as to carry out the twofold method that you have described just now—that is, a historical collection exhibiting in a certain number of rooms, and a collection illustrating the whole progress of one particular art in some large gallery or some saloon, such as you have now at South Kensington?—I think in the new buildings we want large rooms and small rooms. The rooms must be of a certain width. We have experienced great difficulty recently when we took over the Cross Gallery in finding that the rooms were so small that they could not be adapted to our cases. The smaller rooms might very well be also used for those rooms that Sir Henry Howorth mentions, and that we should have the privilege of saying whereabouts the windows come, because, of course, in lighting these rooms a difficulty occurs. If the architect has already put his window in, you either have to shift your panelling, or block up that window altogether. The larger rooms would do very well indeed for making the classified collections, and they should be wide enough to take our standard cases comfortably, so that the public can get all round, and also put anything on the walls that we may want, especially wall cases.

1587. In addition to the difficulty about your cases it has been said by a previous witness that there is another difficulty with regard to these small rooms which make them inconvenient, and that is the crowds of people who come into the museum; you have great difficulty in supervising them in these small rooms—have you found any difficulty in the rooms you have already got?—The fitted rooms?

1588. Yes; do you allow the public to perambulate these rooms, or are they confined to a small gangway?—We allow the public to perambulate one of the rooms, and the other we have closed, allowing students to go in, or any of the public who wish to see it seriously.

1589. You found no damage done to the two—have you had any damage done to these rooms?—I do not recollect any damage to the one in which the public perambulate. It is a room about 30 feet long.

1590. I am putting this rather in a hypothetical way—the ideal in the eyes of some of us would be something like they have in the Castle of Rosenberg,



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

of Rosenberg, in Denmark, where the whole of Danish Art is illustrated by a long series of rooms, each room devoted to a particular King, and everything relating to that reign that is exhibited, is exhibited all together in that particular room. Now, if you adopt anything like that scheme at South Kensington, it should be a fairly complete scheme; that is to say, not two or three scattered rooms as you have now, but distinctly to go through the whole of, say modern art since the sixteenth century, if you like to limit it to that. In view of such an arrangement being adopted, you will see the importance of having the ground plan of your museum arranged in a very definite way—it can only be done in a very definite way; you cannot shut off a corner or two of a big room. Have you in your mind any such plan, or have you contemplated at all an arrangement of your space that could be carried out on those lines?—I have thought about it, but I have got nothing very definite.

1591. You think that when the plans are considered by the architect this should be brought before him very specially?—Certainly.

1592. Do you approve of the museum being as far as possible lighted by top-lights?—I think we ought to have some of both; I should not like to say all top-lights or all side-lights.

1593. You are aware that in the galleries of the British Museum they are now taking out all the side lights and substituting only top lights. Are you aware of that?—I was not aware of that.

1594. You would prefer to have both?—I think I would prefer to have both certainly. In the case of a room as you were suggesting just now a side light would be necessary of course in that particular respect.

1595. About the cases you said that virtually you and Mr. Clarke between you could decide about the arrangement of the cases, but I thought the cases were all made on one plan and that plan had been designed irrespective of course of yourself by General Festing and his men; is not that so?—No. The ordinary standard case we use was designed many years ago, and we are still using it. I can design any particular case, and I did one the other day, which I am having made. I designed it and Mr. Clarke put in his emendations and General Festing showed us where we were not quite right. That case is now being made, and the initiative came from me.

1596. At present you virtually with a little pains can have any case almost that is reasonably necessary for your department?—Certainly, and provided there are funds.

1597. Have you ever had any difficulty in view of fire about the cases being arranged without very wide gangways between them. That has been suggested to me as a continual source of danger in the future as well as in the past. Have you any notion about the space that there ought to be between the cases in order to provide against any danger from fire so that the fire engines could be run between them at all?—It certainly would be safer to have a wide space so that you could run an engine down or the

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Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

pipes down or allow a man to run down quickly in such an emergency. Of course that would apply to the public as well.

1598. You have no method by which you pass the public through the rooms in any definite order of rooms? Would that prevent a good deal of crowding if you had some method by which the public was passed round as they are passed round at Hampton Court and elsewhere; I am not speaking of students?—We have never found it necessary. There is one case. When they had a special exhibition at Bethnal Green I happened to be there that year, a good many years ago, and we did pass the public round. On account of the presence of Her Majesty we had to pass the public round as there were such tremendous crowds, but as a rule there is no such need.

1599. Have you contemplated when the new buildings are built making an entire separation between the Eastern Art and the Western Art as it is separated now between the two galleries. Will you continue that separation?—In that respect I think the Director and I are agreed that they should be amalgamated if possible.

1600. That is to say you would put the Eastern pottery in absolute continuity with the Western pottery, and treat the whole as a great pottery collection?—Certainly.

1601. And you would do virtually what you do now with Mr. Saltings' collections—that is to say, his Chinese porcelain and his majolica are put virtually in continuity?—Yes, I should give it a more scientific arrangement than that.

1602. You would break down the present great separation between the East and the West?—Yes, I think so.

1603. Are there any catalogues being prepared at all at this moment in your department?—No, not in my particular department.

1604. As a matter of fact, did these big catalogues cover the whole of your collections or only a section of them?—I think they cover the whole of the special collections at the time they were prepared, but of course now they are very much out of date.

1605. They are out of date merely because all the specimens are not incorporated. Virtually, do you have a catalogue with an introduction dealing with each one of the departments of the museum now?—You mean those large volumes?

1606. Yes?—I do not think all the sections were brought out; I think they are short of some. Of course they are out of date now owing to advances in knowledge.

1607. I believe you have some special view about a special collection for distributing purposes in the local museums and collections; do you consider there ought to be a special part of your collection set apart for circulation, and another part which should never move at all?—I fancy that will have to come about owing to the increase of the museums, by and by.

1608. Do you think that a certain number of objects are so precious, and are also so necessary for illustrating the continuity of a series, that it is a mistake ever to remove them at all from your cases for purposes of circulation, or would you circulate the whole collection?—No, I do

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29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

not think I would circulate the whole collection. I should circulate the most of it, but there are certain pieces which probably are unique, and which you would never get again; if they were broken they would be gone for ever.

Mr. Woodall.

1609. Might I ask you to say whether you would approve of the general principle that the objects in a museum generally should be available for circulation, but that certain particular examples, fragile in their character and of great value, should be specially exempted from the dangers of circulation?—I think that is the way I should put it.

Sir Henry Howorth.

1610. Are you in favour of treating the casts and the original objects as parts of one series and exhibiting them altogether, so as to illustrate the whole continuity of the series, or would you keep the original objects in one place and the casts in another, as they are very much at Kensington now?—As our museum is intended for teaching and instruction I should certainly have them all together, so as to make a continual sequence; where you could not get the original get a good cast or electrotype.

1611. But exhibit them all together?—Yes.

1612. Take your plastic ivories and put them in a series with your original ivories, and your electrotypes in the same way with your original metal work?—Yes, if you did not have them absolutely in the same case you could have them close together, so that you might refer from the one to the other. You might have them in the same cases in some instances.

1613. Has the collection of casts been made on any plan, or is it not haphazard—the particular objects that have been cast?—Which one?

1614. Take the large collection of casts of Italian marbles and Italian bas-reliefs you have got; has any attempt been made to follow out, for instance, the great handbook of the Berlin Museum—the immense continuous series illustrating almost the whole of Italian sculpture, or has it been purely haphazard?—I should say purely haphazard.

1615. Just as some particular object has been recommended?—Yes.

1616. Do you not think it would be wise to have a systematic plan of making that a much more complete series than it is, along definite lines?—Certainly.

1617. Would you be prepared yourself to recommend the filling up of gaps in the series if such a plan were adopted?—Certainly.

1618. Have you in the museum itself definite authority over any of your staff, or are they all immediately dependent on Mr. Clarke—are they under your orders at all, any of your colleagues, or are they all immediately dependent on Mr. Clarke?—The whole of the Art Museum for all practical purposes is under my orders. Mr. Clarke would come to me in a great many instances and say, "I should like so and so done," and I should distribute that work to my assistants.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

1619. But they are your assistants in the hierarchy of the place?—Yes, they are my assistants.

1620. Have you been consulted—has there been a vacancy on the staff since you went into the museum and since this new scheme came into force?—There is a vacancy for a junior assistant now.

1621. Have you been consulted about the type of man and the attainments he ought to have to fill the position?—I do not think it would be much good asking me, because it is an open competition.

1622. Let me put this case: suppose one of your trained men who had had charge of one of these great departments were to die, would you under the present conditions have to start again with an absolutely empty man who had to learn the whole scheme, and would not you be permitted to recommend a person who had had some training?—A person outside?

1623. Yes?—I do not think I should.

1624. Then as a matter of fact you might at any moment be deprived of the keeper of one of these enormous departments and the public would have to be dependent, and the collection would have to be dependent for the care of that collection in future on an absolutely untried man who knew nothing whatever about it?—I hope a case like that will not happen; because, when I have all the officers I wish for to make the working of this idea complete, there will be always a man growing up underneath this man—a junior assistant attached to him—so I do not think that would happen.

1625. You are then going to continue this plan of division by having a subordinate as well as the chief man in each department?—Certainly, Mr. Kendrick for instance has a subordinate now who works with him and if anything happens to Mr. Kendrick there is this man coming on.

1626. Are you allowed to take books out of the library, or must you consult them in the library itself?—I take them out; I had one out this morning.

1627. You have absolute access to the library?—Yes, certainly.

1628. Are you allowed to take them out of the building?—I should not like to take them out of the building; I do not take out books without informing the Librarian; I just give a sort of receipt for them like any other reader.

1629. Only every other reader has to consult the books in the room?—Yes.

1630. Are you satisfied with the labelling of the objects?—No, I am very much dissatisfied.

1631. Do you agree or disagree with those who think it is a mistake to put the prices on the labels of these objects?—I think the time has come now to make the stand that we can take those prices off.

1632. Do you not think they are entirely misleading?—They are quite misleading.

1633. Not only with regard to the intrinsic value, but also misleading with regard to the actual price paid for them in so many cases?—Yes.

1634. Because the objects were bought in large series and the price of a particular individual



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

vidual object is distributed by yourselves among the series?—Yes, it is in some cases.

1635. Was not that so in the case of Lord Zouche's collection when you bought the whole *en bloc*, and put a price on the various objects as you thought right?—No; in the case of Lord Zouche's collection I think the broker we employed and sent to do the valuation did that.

1636. What I mean is, it is in no sense a guide to the actual price, in a case like that, paid in the auction room for the particular object?—No, it would not be their value.

Mr. Woodall.

1637. You have already said that you are very much dissatisfied with the present system of labelling; will you explain in something like detail what objections you find in the present method of labelling?—Perhaps I misunderstood Sir Henry Howorth as to the system of labelling.

1638. In what particular are you dissatisfied with the labelling?—I did not say I was dissatisfied with the system of labelling; I said I was dissatisfied with the labelling. The labels as they stand now are to my mind very inaccurate.

Chairman.

1639. Are they antiquated?—Very much antiquated. We have already started revising them. I have each of my secondary keepers revising old labels when they have the opportunity.

Mr. Woodall.

1640. But the method adopted of giving as much information on the label as the label itself will contain you approve of?—Certainly, and I should give more information, as much as ever I could.

1641. Is not the practice adopted at South Kensington, except where it has been imitated, unique?—I think we were practically the first to do that kind of work.

Sir Henry Howorth.

1642. Do you not think it would be a good thing on the label always to explain which part of the object is original and which is, to use my friend Sir Augustus Frank's phrase, bedevilled?—A capital plan.

1643. In every case the part bedevilled ought to be carefully called attention to?—Yes; as they do with the antique sculpture in the Louvre.

1644. Do you not think also it would be wise, where the object admits of it, that the bedevilled part should be outlined in some way so that the students should know which part is original and which is not.

1645. Take old oak furniture, for instance, which is the subject of tremendous sophistication. Do you not think you ought to put that on the object itself?—We might do so. It would rather disfigure it.

1646. Do you approve of the plan adopted in many museums, not only of having individual labels, but also what I call master labels, in large letters more or less describing the whole big class?—Certainly; I already have that. In the case of the pottery collection—the Schreiber gift—there are those large labels.

0.5—8.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

1647. Would you approve of having, as they have in Natural History Museums now, maps showing the geographical distribution of certain forms of art?—Yes; anything to make the object more interesting or educational to the public.

1648. For instance, take the Chinese porcelain—to let people see where the famous potteries where these were made were actually situated?—If we could locate them—yes, certainly.

1649. I think they could be located very largely now; an immense mass of material has been collected lately. I am speaking now about making those labels as instructive as possible. Is there any other special matter with regard to the arrangement of these objects in which you would like to see a change made, and which you think would be desirable?—

Mr. Woodall.

1650. Before you leave that subject might I ask whether you think that the system of labelling and the other forms of guidance to the visitors to the museum should be so ample as to render a catalogue unnecessary?—I think they should.

1651. Is there not a particular kind of information which a visitor would rather look for in a catalogue than expect to be placed either on the object or on the walls?—No doubt in the catalogue he might find much more detailed information that perhaps it would be inconvenient to put on the label, it would make it so very large, but I think he ought to be able to find everything on the label which would give him a good idea of the object.

1652. As a matter of fact when catalogues are compiled, are they not usually built up so to speak of the actual description given on the label?—Certainly.

Sir Henry Howorth.

1653. In the view of some of us a collection of pictures is out of place in a great technical collection like that at South Kensington, and would be better exhibited elsewhere; would that be your view?—No doubt for an ideal industrial museum, with which the Germans have been particularly identified, pictures are not in place.

1654. Do you know any continental museum devoted to the same objects as your South Kensington Museum at all in which pictures are made a part of the exhibition as they are at South Kensington?—I cannot say that I do, but I have not seen every one on the continent, and I could not say for certain.

1655. Pictures are of two kinds; there may be pictures which illustrate costume, which illustrate the arts as developed in ornament and in other ways to illustrate pageants, and there are pictures that have been distinctly painted or designed for the purpose of being made into tapestries or fabrics—that kind of picture—I presume you would say would be germane more or less to your collections?—Yes.

1656. But pictures such as the Sheepshanks' collection, which form a gallery of English art as illustrated by painting, would in your opinion not form or would it not form—a collection germane to your general collection?—No, I think not.

1657. Do



29 April 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

1657. Do you, as a matter of fact, accept or refuse pictures when they are now presented to the Museum, or when they are bequeathed to the Museum—do you enlarge that collection?—We have very few offered in that way, and we generally accept them.

1658. Do you reject anything of any sort?—Sometimes—yes.

Mr. Foxall.

1659. I think you told us that it was in 1879 that you entered the service of the Nation in the Museum?—That is so.

1660. Would you mind telling us what had been your career and your qualifications for service in the Museum before that date, which is not so very long ago after all?—I cannot say that I had any qualification at all; I entered by open competition.

1661. Under the Civil Service competition of course?—Yes.

1662. Since that date you have made yourself familiar and facile in your proper work. I understand that recently you have endeavoured to develop in the part of the Museum under your control a system whereby the keeper of a room or section shall become more and more responsible for the work of his room or section, and shall have more authority than he has had in the past?—Yes.

1663. How long is it since that new system began to be developed?—When Mr. Clarke became Director—in 1896 or 1897—I do not quite recollect the year for the moment.

1664. It began with Mr. Clarke's appointment?—Yes, it was Mr. Clarke's instructions that that should be carried out.

1665. The new system really began to come into operation after the appointment of Mr. Clarke?—Yes.

1666. And, of course, you are wholly in sympathy with that?—Yes.

1667. You are doing your best to carry it out?—Certainly.

Mr. Woodall.

1668. Will you explain to the Committee in what sense you are responsible for the conduct of the Circulation Department—is Mr. Watts subordinate to you?—Yes, he is subordinate to me.

1669. Then you are consulted as to the selection of objects for particular provincial

Mr. Woodall—continued.

museums?—Well, I can hardly say that; he, of course, gets a great many objects from the Museum for the provincial museums, and he will think out himself, acting on information which he has received from the local authorities, as to what they would like.

1670. You naturally would desire to encourage in him a certain responsibility for administrative action?—Certainly.

1671. I want to ask you, in reference to the opinions you have expressed, that if pictures as such are not part of a collection of industrial or decorative Art, how does it come about that they are always included, and always very much desired, in any contribution sent down from the Circulation to provincial museums?—We have a large number of pictures which are sent about to provincial museums, and I understand they are always very glad to have some.

1672. As a matter of fact have there not been complaints in past times that the number of pictures available for circulation was much too limited?—I have heard that.

1673. So far then as those who are responsible for provincial collections are concerned, they do not share your view that pictures should have no part in a collection?—I saw the point when Sir Henry Howorth was putting it, and there was an opportunity to bring in the matter of the Circulation; no doubt, in the matter of Circulation, pictures are very popular.

1674. They are very attractive to the general public?—Yes, they want some sometimes to fill up a staircase, or to fill up a particular part which is not applicable to objects, so I understand.

1675. The framed examples serve the purpose very well for occupying such wall space as may be available, but pictures are so much desired inasmuch as they attract the general public whom you desire to bring together to study the other objects you send out?—Certainly.

1676. You do not deny that they have a certain artistic influence in training the minds of students and the general public?—That is so.

1677. In that sense you qualify the opinion you have expressed in answer to Sir Henry Howorth?—Yes, I had the matter of an ideal industrial museum in my mind when answering him. I qualify it as regards the Circulation matter.

[Adjourned.]







Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 29th April 1898.*

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*Mr. J. C. L. Sparkes* - - - - p. 91  
*Mr. A. B. Skinner, B.A., F.S.A.* - - p. 95

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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Box No. 11  
Spare c/s

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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9.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 6th May 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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REPORT OF THE

ALL of these Committees are directed to make any alterations in the  
report and to submit to the Committee to be continued the  
same to the Committee on the subject of the Committee.

Report of the Committee on  
the subject of the Science and Art Department, 1897.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

ALL of the above Committees are directed to make any alterations in the  
report and to submit to the Committee to be continued the  
same to the Committee on the subject of the Committee.

London, 10th May 1898.

ALL of the above Committees are directed to make any alterations in the  
report and to submit to the Committee to be continued the  
same to the Committee on the subject of the Committee.



*Friday, 6th May, 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Mr. Humphrys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Sir Francis Sharpe Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARPE POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. A. B. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A., again called in; and further Examined.

Mr. *Ernest Gray*.

1678. I WANTED to ask you, with regard to the work of circulation, Do you agree that there are a number of objects in South Kensington which ought not to go out in circulation at all?—I do.

1679. Should the selection of these objects be made by the present keepers of the Art and Science sides, or do you think it desirable that a committee of experts should determine which articles should not leave the South Kensington Museum?—I think the directors are quite capable of saying; I do not think it need go to experts.

1680. And having retained in the Museum a number of articles which should not go on circulation at all, do you agree that there is a number of others, forming as it were a second class, which might go out to local museums where special care could be taken of them, but which should not be objects for ordinary circulation?—I do not quite understand your point.

1681. Is it desirable to classify as it were the objects that do go out on circulation, retaining in one division those which should be sent to special museums only, and in others those which might go out in common circulation to art schools and the smaller art galleries and museums of the country?—That is, that we should have a collection which is as it were stored in one place—not shown in our Museum but really to go out to other museums.

1682. No; having retained in the Museum a number of objects which ought never to go out, you have still left the greater part of the Museum?—Certainly.

1683. Of that greater portion I want to know your view as to further classifying that remaining portion. Is it desirable that a part of this remaining portion—the more costly and more valuable objects—should go on circulation to such places as Birmingham and Nottingham—where every care could be taken of them, but should not go to ordinary places of circulation?—Yes; I think so. You mean of course that they should go and not be under our keys?

0.5—9.

Mr. *Ernest Gray*—continued.

1684. No. I mean that they should quit the Museum—never mind under what condition for the moment—that they should go to circulation, but should not be sent out indiscriminately to any applicant that might apply?—Yes; certainly—having labelled those few special objects which must not go out because of their special value, I should let all the rest go.

1685. Anywhere?—No. I think one should have a certain amount of discretion, and that an important place like Birmingham should certainly have the choice of better works of art than places where, perhaps, they would not be so useful.

1686. Do you think it desirable that these objects which might go ought to be sent to a local museum which has no skilled keeper—where the local museum, say, is under the control of the head of the free library, with no special museum training; would it be desirable to send them to such places as those?—I have hardly thought of that, because, of course, they go out under our lock and key.

1687. When an object is sent out—particularly an object which has acquired wide reputation for its value—would it be desirable to leave its place blank and to indicate by means of a label that it has been sent to a particular local museum? That is the method we adopt now, but it really is not a very good method. It has been suggested that we should put a photograph of the object in front of the label so as to let the public see what that particular object is. Unfortunately, I have not been able to do anything in that way, because it is a very large business.

1688. Supposing, for example, you sent an object for six months to Dublin, and then had it back for six months in the Museum, and afterwards sent it for six months to Edinburgh, and another six months to Nottingham, do you think there would be any advantage from having a label so constructed as to enable you to enter from one day to another that this particular object was on exhibition at Dublin, Edinburgh, Nottingham, and so on?—A label put in the case?

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1689. Yes.



6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

1689. Yes.—I do not think I see any reason for it, as that particular object is shifted from one place to another. I should alter the label in the Museum?

1690. Do you mean from one place to another in the Museum, or from one town to another?—From one town to another.

1691. That is, you would not keep its place vacant?—I should keep it vacant. "Temporarily removed to Dublin" in the first instance, and then I would alter that label to "Temporarily removed to Edinburgh."

1692. You think that is preferable to having one label which could be filled in?—I think either way would suit very well indeed. I use the other way. Of course, the other way could be adopted equally easily.

1693. You have in mind, no doubt, the desirability of popularising the Museum and its collections, particularly with those who are in a position to add to its collections?—Yes, certainly.

1694. Do you recollect any particular specimens now in South Kensington of great value which have been secured to the nation through the observation of private donors on their visits to South Kensington on other occasions?—The most notable one that comes across my mind just now is in the case of a gentleman named Sir Prescott Gardiner Hewitt. He said when he gave his pictures to the nation, that he gave them because of the many hours of pleasure he had spent at the museum, and he wished to add his collection.

1695. Would it not tend to secure further valuable additions if the visitors to the museum realised at once the full value you were able to attach to a particular object, and the use you were able to make of it by showing him at a glance that certain valuable objects there had not been merely of use to South Kensington, but had been placed at the disposal of Dublin, Edinburgh, and other places?—Decidedly so; but some people take another view. In the case of Mr. Jones, he drew up his will so that the things can never go out and can never be classified; they must all stay just as one Jones collection, and always be together; and that creates a great difficulty.

1696. In that particular case he desired that they should remain?—Yes.

1697. Do you see no special value in constructing a label of that sort indicating the various places to which an object has been sent?—I think there is a good deal of value, but not, perhaps, quite so much as you indicate.

1698. Having dealt with those objects, which we may assume should visit local museums where due care can be taken of them, I understand that it is suggested that a large number of objects of minor importance should be circulated freely throughout the country, and that you are now doing?—That we are now doing.

1699. And you are also making copies—duplicates—of a number of valuable objects which you do not care to send out, and you are circulating the duplicates?—We are circulating copies and duplicates.

1700. What sort of a label do you send out with the reproductions?—We say what kind of a reproduction it is and what the nationality of

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

the original is, and what the date of the original is.

1701. And that the original is in South Kensington?—Yes, and we give the registered number of it.

1702. You give a full description of the original?—Yes.

1703. And a description of the reproduction?—Yes; very often the description of the original is a bit curtailed.

1704. In receiving requests from local museums for exhibits, have you observed a fairly general desire to secure attractive objects rather than educational objects?—I fancy that in the applications which come in now you find an increasing desire on the part of the local authorities to obtain objects which are of an educational value.

1705. What steps do you take in the Museum to encourage the desire for educational exhibits, and to assist them in forming local educational exhibits?—When they make their application they are invited to state what they would particularly like, and we try to follow that out as far as we possibly can.

1706. To follow out what they state?—What they state.

1707. Or do you suggest to them that having regard to their local manufactures—to their local industries—you have such and such things which would be of more value to the locality?—Yes, I think that is put in in an indirect way—that is, we try to find out what is going on in that particular town, and we also try to find out what the art master would like to have in that particular town, and then we try to do our best to meet all parties.

1708. Do I understand, then, that if you have received a communication from the curator of a local museum you would also communicate with the art master asking him his views as to the objects which should be sent?—No. Our official should not do so officially, but he should try to ask and see if he could not make it meet all round, so as to make the exhibit useful to the school as well as to what the Museum wants. In the first instance I should try and follow what the art curator wishes in that particular town.

1709. Why try to follow it?—Because he sends up a list of things he would like to have.

1710. Did I understand you to say there is frequently a desire shown to secure merely attractive objects—things which will make a show—to secure the 6d. admissions?—I do not think I said that.

1711. Let us be quite clear. I want to get this as clearly as I may. I take it that your view is, then, that the local curator usually asks for that which will have the highest educational value for the locality. Is that your view?—I think that is the increasing tendency; of course, in some places no doubt they do ask for objects which are attractive. Still, the tendency is to ask for works of art which are useful to manufactures in the district.

1712. Now, then, I want to know what steps you take, you and your colleagues at South Kensington, to deal with those applications which are evidently applications for attractive rather than



6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

than for educational exhibits?—We find out what industry is going on in that particular town; we also try to find out, in a quiet way, what may be useful at the schools, and then with the three applications or the three ideas, we try to make as good an exhibit for them as we can.

1713. Do you ever receive applications from temporary museums, industrial exhibitions?—Oh, yes.

1714. Do you think it right that South Kensington should send any of its valuable objects to temporary museums and industrial exhibitions?—Yes, certainly.

1715. Can you mention any local temporary exhibition which you consider has been helped by articles sent from South Kensington?—We had a special exhibition at a little place called Lydney. There they were starting, I fancy, technical classes, and that exhibition was formed to give the townspeople an interest in what the authorities were trying to do. We sent down a collection in order that they might see what it was that the authorities wished us to undertake.

1716. Do you send out lecturers to lecture on the objects you have sent to the local museums?—No, we do not; but we have an officer who does lecture when asked. He has lectured with collections he has taken down into the country.

1717. If, for example, Macclesfield had received from you a set of objects, and then applied to South Kensington to send a lecturer to lecture on them, would you comply with that request?—I think I should—perhaps not so readily now as I may be able to do in a few months hence.

1718. Why?—Because I think the officer I should like to send perhaps would not be quite prepared to go at a week's notice.

1719. You say "the officer"; have you only one officer in mind?—For Macclesfield, because, of course, we should send to Macclesfield a particular kind of article.

1720. Have you a staff of gentlemen suitable for this work?—I shall have presently—I think—certainly.

1721. Ought you to have such a staff?—Yes, certainly.

1722. May I take it from you that those lectures would be of very great value to a locality?—Of enormous value; there is no doubt about it. I quite sympathise with anybody who wishes to lecture and use a lantern and proper slides.

1723. Take the exhibit of boots and shoes at Bethnal Green at the present moment; would it not be a very great advantage to that locality, particularly if you could advertise the fact that, say on every Thursday afternoon from six to seven an officer from South Kensington would deliver a popular lecture on the exhibits there?—Certainly.

1724. Of great value?—Of enormous value; I have often thought of it for Bethnal Green.

1725. Have you any one who could do it?—I think the officer there ought to be able to do it.

1726. Mr. Parkinson?—Yes.

1727. Are there local regulations there which would permit it?—I do not think they have a suitable room.

0.5—9.

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

1728. Could he not lecture in the Central Hall?—Yes, certainly.

1729. Railing off a part?—Yes, because it is very easily railed off.

1730. Do you know any instance in which a lecture has been delivered on the floor at Bethnal Green Museum?—No, but they have delivered some lectures there, whereabouts they were I cannot exactly say.

1731. Can you recollect the last instance when South Kensington sent an officer to lecture on any one of the exhibits sent to any one of the local museums of the country?—I fancy the last time was at Dundee; an officer went down with a collection, and he was asked to lecture on the collection, and he did so; but then he did so on his own account. He was not sent down specially by South Kensington for that; he was sent down with a collection.

1732. When was that?—I think it was last year; I saw it in the Report the other day.

1733. But that was not done officially through South Kensington?—No, the lecture was not.

1734. It was a private matter with the gentleman himself?—Yes.

1735. When was the last case you dealt with officially?—I am afraid I do not know the case.

1736. You do not know of a single case where South Kensington has sent an Official Lecturer with any one of the exhibits sent out to any local museum throughout the country?—Of course the lecture I was referring to at Bethnal Green might be called an official lecture.

1737. Evidently there are not many of these cases?—No, I cannot call them to mind.

1738. I may take it that without pressing you any further that although you have not been able to do this in the past, or although at all events you cannot recall an instance at the moment, you think it would be a very desirable work for South Kensington to accomplish?—Certainly.

1739. And would materially add to the value of the collection?—Enormously.

1740. Particularly to their educational value when dealing with local interests?—Yes.

1741. And I believe the exhibition was really formed in 1852 for the express purpose of helping local industries?—Yes.

1742. And that in this particular branch of educational work, you have so far not been able to do anything—or, at all events, not much—but desire to do it in the future?—We do.

1743. It would need an addition to your staff?—I want an addition to my staff on the Museum, and I think the officers who are taking these various sections in the Museum should also be able to do the lecturing.

1744. That is, he should be the Museum Keeper, and a competent lecturer?—Yes.

1745. That means he should be a person who was appointed a Museum Keeper, because partly he had had an artistic or scientific training?—Yes, not necessarily appointed from outside, but grown up from the bottom in the Museum.

1746. That is, that he had received his particular appointment as a museum keeper, partly owing to his qualifications as a skilled lecturer  
able



6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

able to demonstrate as well as merely to take charge of collections?—Yes.

1747. I should like to ask you one question on the labelling. Do you not think it would be a great advantage if the cases had master labels giving a general description of the objects and the reason for their being collected in that particular form?—The Museum cases or the circulation cases?

1748. The Museum cases?—Certainly.

1749. I am not speaking of the small label attached to a particular object. Take such a case as that of Bethnal Green, illustrating the manufacture of boots. Would it not be desirable that the master label there should be materially enlarged so as to show from what point of view the case should be regarded, which object should be looked at first, how the case should be followed round and how the various stages of manufacture should be followed out by the visitor?—Decidedly; yes.

1750. Why has that not been done?—Bethnal Green?

1751. And at South Kensington?—I am afraid I cannot say why it has not been done. As I said last week in the case of the Schreiber Gift, you find little master labels in each section of the various porcelains and earthenwares of England.

1752. That is, in your opinion there should be a label attached to the object and a master label on the case?—Yes.

1753. Now, then, why not also a further master label or a short catalogue at the entrance of each one of the galleries where particular sets of objects are shown?—A master label to indicate the position?

1754. To indicate the object of the collection—that this gallery contains such and such objects illustrative of such and such an era of art in such and such a country?—Certainly; I should be glad to do anything of that kind—it would be most useful.

1755. You do not do it now?—No, we do not.

1756. You have no gallery at South Kensington where a visitor on entering the gallery can by a glance at a hanging label form a general idea of the objects exhibited in that room. No, we have not.

1757. Would it be desirable?—I think it would—very useful indeed.

1758. At South Kensington how many stalls are there at which catalogues and photographs of the Museum collections are sold?—We have a big stall at the entrance for catalogues and photographs, and then you can buy a certain number of publications at the entrance to the Indian Section, at the entrance to the Machinery and Inventions Gallery, and, I think, in the Science Museum there is one—just a table where you can buy certain publications—I am not quite certain about that.

1759. Supposing a visitor were in the gallery where French furniture is shown and desired a descriptive catalogue of that, must he go to the entrance door in order to secure it?—Yes.

1760. What objection is there to having small stalls?—I do not think we should have enough for the attendant to do; there would not be sufficient demand.

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

1761. Have you ever tried?—I think in the old days it was tried? I think I recollect being told there was someone who sat in the court to sell some catalogue, what one it was I could not tell.

1762. You do not think that a catalogue of any particular collection would sell—that there would be a demand for it there?—Oh, certainly.

1763. Do you happen to know this penny catalogue, published by the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and descriptive of a picture, "The Triumph of the Innocents," by Holman Hunt?—I do not know whether I have seen it or not. (*It was handed to the Witness.*) No, I have not seen it.

1764. Do you think that catalogues of this description would meet a demand at South Kensington?—Most decidedly.

1765. Have you done anything of the sort?—I did a catalogue once of the Pelham Clinton Hope pictures—not quite on those lines, but a catalogue of the whole collection. Many other catalogues have been made of special collections, and I have done one now which is just in manuscript. I hope to get it out shortly; it is a series of drawings that are going out into the country—drawing of the old frescoes and wall paintings and houses at Pompeii. I have got part of it done, and as soon as I can get the rest of the description the whole catalogue and description will be finished. That will go with the collection when it goes into the country or when exhibited at South Kensington.

1766. At what price do you sell those catalogues?—Various prices—as cheaply as possible.

1767. A penny? Yes. The Pelham Clinton Hope one is a penny, I think.

1768. Do you recollect the number sold?—I do not think there were very many sold. I had a label on each picture as well.

1769. You would not sell 10,000 of them? No; we did not sell anything like 10,000 as far as I know.

1770. Are the art rooms entirely in your custody?—With the Director, of course.

1771. Are any of those art rooms ever used for science examinations?—No.

1772. None of the rooms under your control are ever used for science examinations?—No.

Dr. Farquharson.

1773. My friend, Mr. Gray, was asking a question about the demand for objects which are attractive, and have not educational value. Is it possible to draw an absolute distinction between objects that are attractive and those which have educational value? An attractive object may mean an object containing artistic merit which may be in itself an education?—Certainly, but I understand the distinction to be this—that pottery, for instance, would be of educational value to a pottery town, whereas it may just be an attractive show case in another town where they have no interest in pottery.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

1774. Would you regard Goldsmith's work as an educational object in a town devoted to the manufacture



6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

manufacture of boots?—Scarcely; it would be an attractive object to them.

1775. You would describe that in such a town as an attractive object?—I think I would.

Mr. Woodall.

1776. I think I will follow up that question. Are there any towns to which your collections go where the occupation is so exclusively in one direction, such as that of bootmaking, as to render it undesirable to send them art objects of a miscellaneous character? Do you know of any such town?—Where the manufacture is so limited?

1777. Yes. Let me suggest—Leicester has been referred to as a town where in recent years boot-making has had a very prosperous development; but Leicester, as you probably know, has one of the most successful schools of art where miscellaneous design has been very successfully promoted indeed. Is it not desirable, therefore, that in a town like Leicester the objects sent on circulation should be of a miscellaneous character?—Yes I know about Leicester, because we have there collections—we have a collection at the Museum, and we also have a collection at the School of Art, and the collection at the School of Art was one which was got up with particular care, because the school was opened, I think, last autumn, and we tried a new kind of case there, which I believe has met with general satisfaction.

1778. Have you tried that case at that particular town because of the importance of the art instruction in the town?—No, it was because of the particular kind of room they had got there; I think they have got a gallery; I have not been there myself. I think they have a very long room with side windows and big recesses.

1779. This is in the new School of Art?—The new Technical School.

1780. The Technical Schools are now amalgamated with the School of Art, or under the same management?—Yes.

1781. Then you would recognise that the needs of Leicester are by no means limited to the particular and, shall I say, the preponderating interest of boot-making.—Certainly not.

1782. Would you not say the same thing of Stafford or Northampton, which are towns of the same description more or less?—I do not think we have got the museums at Stafford or Northampton. I forget whether we lend there, I do not think we do.

1783. At any rate if you were asked for a contribution for the general purposes for which those objects are selected for Northampton, you would not say, "Oh! Northampton is a boot-making town and we must only send them collections of Cordova leathers or of historical boots and shoes?"—We would send them something else too.

Dr. Farquharson

1784.—Is it not a good thing to develop people's tastes a little outside their own particular handicrafts?—Certainly.

1785. And therefore a series of objects which may be looked upon as merely attractive from a manufacturer's point of view, might really be

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Dr. Farquharson—continued.

beneficial from the educational point of view, as improving the people's taste?—Oh, yes.

1786. Do you select the works that you lend from South Kensington, the objects you lend, in accordance with local demand, and feeling largely?—Very largely, practically all together; and very often the Curator, or some responsible person comes up, and they go round with one of us and say, "We should like this and that; we have a reason for wanting it," and if feasible we should try and let them have it, certainly.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

1787. You are constructing at South Kensington now some special rooms, ceilings, and walls, either exact copies or the originals of rooms of given periods like the French Empire and say old English; do you place in those rooms the furniture of the same period?—Yes.

1788. In all of them?—In the two we have got, certainly, and in the third we are to set up we should put in old English furniture of the period; the room would not be complete without.

1789. Do you admit the public to the rooms—inside them—or must they view them through a window?—The public can go inside in the one room without asking any permission whatever; it is almost a passage, but the other room we do keep barred off, but anyone can go in who likes to ask a constable or one of us.

1790. Have you had applications from the manufacturers of London for permission to copy those rooms exactly as they stand?—Yes. I should have added we have a Louis Seize room; that room has been copied two or three times by London manufacturers.

1791. And the setting up, therefore, of this Louis Seize room has been the means of giving a large amount of work to particular firms and their employes in their reproduction?—Yes, if we had not had that room they would have had to go to Paris for it.

1792. If you had not had that room the probability is that they might not have copied it at all?—Probably.

1793. That is, the order would have been lost?—Yes, very likely.

1794. Such rooms would encourage, then, to some extent home manufacture?—Yes. A lady came the other day and wanted to see a certain room of a certain period; fortunately I was able to show it to her. I do not believe anything came of it, but that is one way in which our rooms are useful. People can see, and, if they like, go and order something in the same style.

1795. In the construction of the new building would it not be desirable to fit up some similar halls or galleries in this manner, something after the fashion of the Courts at the Crystal Palace?—Certainly; we hope to be able to do that.

1796. Not to make them ordinary museum galleries?—No; to fit them up in the style of some particular period.

1797. And in building other portions of the museum would it be desirable or not to reproduce some of the best-known examples of art work throughout the world—in the the actual construction, I mean, of the Museum in building its capitals and friezes and so on?—I do not think

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6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

think we want that. I think our objects will be quite sufficient to fill the new museum.

1798. But in the construction of the framework of the ceilings and such like. I think you have now at South Kensington one of the galleries on the ground floor where the ceiling is supposed to reproduce oriental work?—Yes; what was called the oriental gallery.

Chairman.

1799. That was done by the great man of the day?—Owen Jones did that.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

1800. Is it not desirable to extend that?—No doubt it would be very nice to have it, but I fancy it would cost a great deal of money.

1801. I am not asking about the question of cost; my question is from the point of view of the artistic value to South Kensington. You are making a great demand for additional space, and you are anxious to use up every inch of area. Can you not also use your ceilings and the very building itself in reproducing?—Certainly. I see what you mean.

1802. So as to make the walls and ceilings themselves an exhibition space?—Yes. Of course you would allow us to have the lower part of the wall for the wall cases, but the upper portion from a certain distance up might very well be used.

1803. You have some frescoes on the walls of one of the larger galleries. Is it a fact that some of these were placed there with the idea of seeing how they looked, and that although put up a considerable time ago they never had the rough nails removed from them, and never had the mouldings placed round them, and are they now in the same rough, untidy state as when they were put up some years ago?—Reproductions of paintings, yes. There are some still unfinished.

1804. Without the mouldings?—No mouldings; they stand just bare from the wall.

1805. How many years have they been in that condition?—I really could not say; it was long before I joined the Museum. They have never been touched in my time.

Dr. Farquharson.

1806. These are mosaics, really?—Yes, these particular cartoons were to have been reproduced afterwards in mosaic, and they have never been done.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

1807. Some of them are in canvas now?—Yes. There are two of the same man. One is a copy.

1808. And the others are mosaics that have not been properly fitted in yet—that is, they have not the mouldings round them?—I think there are one or two.

1809. Are there not three?—I cannot say for certain, but I know several are unfinished.

1810. They are unfinished, due to the fact that they have not had money to fix them?—I suppose that is the case—it was never gone on with.

1811. I understand some of these mosaics were completed in everything except fixing to the walls, and that they are hanging there now, attached to the wall by rough nails, and there is

Mr. Ernest Gray—continued.

no moulding round them. They are in a very untidy condition, are they not?—They look very untidy indeed.

Lord Balcarras.

1812. I wish to ask you a question with reference to your evidence last time. I was asking you about probationary reports, and you said that according to information obtained in the secretarial department you understood that they were made only in the case of second-class clerks, I pointed out to you that that was in direct conflict with the evidence already given, and I should like to know if you have made further inquiry into the matter? Is it the case that these probationary reports are only made in the case of second class clerks?—I got my information from the department I have mentioned. I made enquiry in our secretarial office from one of the officials there, and he told me that in the case of second class clerks at the end of a year, and according to this form which I have got before me now, the Civil Service Commission demand a report, and that report is sent to the Audit Office. In the case of officers who do not come under that category they were unable to find a probationary report at all.

1813. Then do you adhere to your answer that except in the case of second class clerks probationary reports, so far as you as Assistant Director of the Museum are concerned are not made?—Yes.

1814. Would a report be made on a man in that position (*handing a slip of paper to the witness*)?—No, I did not make a report on that official.

1815. I did not ask that—would a report be made on a man in that position?—In the proper course of events.

Mr. Woodall.

1816. Might I ask if the gentleman whose name has been put on the paper is under you? Are you responsible for making the report as to how far he has discharged his duties?—If I had been asked I certainly should have had to make a report about him.

1817. You would be the responsible officer?—Yes.

Chairman.

1818. Was the gentleman whose name is written down on the paper a second-class clerk?—No, he was not.

1819. I wish to ask one or two questions. Some reference was made in the examination to Leicester. May I draw your attention to page 489, where you find Leicester mentioned. That contains reports from the country. Will you kindly read the note from Leicester?—"The exhibits on loan from South Kensington continue to be replaced year by year, and are very necessary for, and much appreciated by, art students." That is in 1890?—Yes.

1820. In the forty-fourth Report of the Science and Art Department, which you have before you, you will find a catalogue of places to which the loans were sent, and amongst them you will find Leicester. You observe the number of objects sent to Leicester?—Yes. January to May, 114; June to December, 167.



6 May 1898.]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

1821. Do you observe the number of visitors?—90,167.

1822. And you observe what payment was made?—No payment—free.

1823. You are no doubt acquainted with the paper which was put in by Mr. Purdon Clarke almost at the conclusion of our evidence last year at page 586, where he made certain suggestions with reference to circulation, and especially to local Art Classes. Can you inform the Committee without going into details as to that Paper, which we all thought extremely valuable, how far the suggestions made in that Paper have been carried out?—A great many suggestions have been carried out, and are working now.

1824. May I take that paper as a fair description now of what is now the practice?—Yes, in a great measure, but it is not all complete yet.

1825. May I take it that that Report is already to a certain extent acted upon, and is being increasingly acted upon as the occasion arises. Is that a fair way of putting it?—Certainly.

1826. Have you any remarks to make upon the 17th paragraph of the Paper put in by Sir John Donnelly, this year, which bears date, October, 1896? How far is the present practice as regards the Loans to Schools of Art, identical with the practice described in that paragraph?—I should describe the 17th paragraph as not being up to date; since that was framed we have enlarged the variety of collections that go to the Schools of Art a great deal. I have noted down here that in addition to the items mentioned in paragraph 17, we are sending out now samples of repoussé work, examples of hammered metal work, we are also sending out wood carvings, reproductions and especially reproductions of things which are difficult to get, except, perhaps, in rather bulky form; we are sending out reproductions of jesso work, and I may explain about those that the jesso work in the Museum is on very large objects; we have some small ones, but comparatively few. I have taken casts of all important objects, and I have put them into a large frame, and with them I have placed a photograph of the whole. That goes out to schools. Then I have made reproductions of silversmiths' work in plaster, which are very useful in towns like Sheffield, where a large amount of silver work is done. I think they are much appreciated there. I gather that there were plasterers' classes in the country, and it struck me that it would be a very good idea if we moulded some of our old ceilings—that is, took the important portions, sufficient to show the pattern in, and also sent them out with photographs of the whole series. I have been able to do that, and that has been very popular, and I am told that at one place—Leicester again—they have secured two orders through having the idea of these ceilings before them. We are also sending out flat pieces of ironwork, which can easily be put into frames, and these have been very much appreciated. We are also sending out what was asked about some ten days ago—processes, or, if we have not sent them, we can do so, in lace. We can send out a process showing how needlepoint is done.

1827. You show different stages I presume?—Different stages. We can also send out processes 0.5—9.

*Chairman—continued.*

of leather work; we can also send out a process of repoussé work. Of cloisonné work we have got two sets. Embroidery also we can send out, because we have some partly finished pieces showing how the thing is done. We have also got a process of Japanese weaving—the raised weaving with the wires running through, and we have also got a process of silversmiths' work as done at Kutch, in India. Then as regards tools, I have got tools for carving in ivory, from Japan. We have also got the stamps which the Persian bookbinders use; we have samples taken from those bookbinding tools. They can all be sent out; in fact, they have been.

Mr. Kenrick.

1828. How many sets of these processes have you?—About ten. I did not mention that we have also a process of niello work.

*Chairman*

1829. You will probably increase the series as you have further opportunity?—Yes; whenever a chance occurs to buy a set of processes we are always very glad to avail ourselves of it.

Mr. Kenrick.

1830. I did not quite understand whether you gave the number of the industries illustrated, or the number of sets of each industry. I think we want to know both?—It would be about nine of the industries and ten of the sets, because I happen to have two of the cloisonné sets.

*Chairman.*

1831. Is that what you have to say in answer to my question?—Yes. Another important addition should be the question of lantern slides; that is quite new.

1832. To schools?—Yes.

1833. Will you proceed?—We have about 1,550 slides, and of course they are constantly growing. Last year we sent out 500 to various schools of art and technical classes. Some of the slides are in duplicate. We have a library of 1,487 books for schools, and we sent out 542 last year. There was a slight decrease, because the books are larger in size than were sent out before. I think that is all.

1834. Is it one of your rules that the public should be admitted to these local schools of art where the objects are lent on loan to see the collections you have described?—No, not that collection—not necessarily.

1835. There is one more question I should like to put. You said—and I am sure we all agreed with you—that these rules were of great value as drawing attention to beautiful works and creating a demand. Would you not extend that to all the exhibits or most of them?—Certainly.

1836. You regard that as one of the great uses of your Museum?—Certainly.

1837. Those are in the provinces and also in London?—Yes.

Mr. Yoxall.

1838. How many Schools of Art are there in affiliation—if I may use the term—with the Circulation Department at South Kensington?—I am



6 May 1898]

Mr. SKINNER, B.A., F.S.A.

[Continued.]

Mr. Voxall—continued.

am sorry to say I have not got the number with me.

1839. Could you give me the number approximately?—I am afraid not, but I will send it in.

1840. I want to discover, if I can, what relation these ten sets and 1,500 slides and 542 books hold to the number of Schools of Art?—Certainly; I will let you have the number of the schools, it is easily shown from the statements in the Report.

Mr. Humphrys-Owen.

1841. Can you under present regulations send objects of art of an educative character to institutions which are not technically schools of art, such as the University Colleges?—I do not think we can at present, but we do send to County Council Schools.

Chairman.

1842. You can send if they are open to the public subject to that condition?—I doubt whether we could send to University Colleges.

Mr. Humphrys-Owen.

1843. Such colleges for instance as the one at Nottingham or the Yorkshire College at Leeds?—We send to the Nottingham School of Art and Nottingham Museum.

1844. But not to the college?—No.

1845. Would it require any material alteration of your regulations to enable you to do that?—As far as our own regulations are concerned, it would not mean any alteration, but there would be certain alterations in the department necessary, that is, the extent would have to be widened.

1846. Do you see any great administrative difficulty in sending an instructive collection to places of education of that kind?—Not at all; no difficulty at all.

1847. And leaving it there for, say, six months or twelve months?—No. There is one point I may explain with regard to the public having free admission to see the particular collections I mentioned just now. Those I mentioned are put into the School of Art, and can be used by the student, and we make no claim at all about their being shown to the public, but there are collections at schools of art now which have been sent on the condition that the public can see them. There are four places—Birmingham, Sheffield, Leicester, and Manchester.

Chairman.

1848. Where the public are admitted as a condition?—Yes; they have cases there as at the Museum; they have a room or rooms, or gallery, and we have fitted up our cases there just as we should in a museum.

Chairman—continued.

1849. In the schools of art, of which you have given the information just now, I assume the pupils can handle the objects you send?—A good many of those they can. For instance, the casts; they can measure them up. There is no glass in front of them.

1850. May I put the question this way to elicit the truth. I understand, as regards the objects you have described as being lent to local schools, the rule as to not handling does not apply to them all?—No, it does not apply to them all; just to some of them.

1851. You put restrictions upon certain objects, not upon others?—That is so; some we lend without putting them into cases.

1852. Those which will bear handling without injury?—Yes. Some, of course, are fragile and dangerous to leave out.

Mr. Woodall.

1853. The only restriction is enclosure in the case; if objects are lent out which are not put into cases you presume that they may be freely handled by the students?—Yes.

1854. Under the superintendence of the Art Master?—Yes.

Mr. Kenrick.

1855. As I understand the old rule of the Department was that when any objects were lent to schools of art, the School of Art was considered to be in the position of a museum, and the public must have free admission—that was the old rule was it not. The Chairman asked the question whether the public must not be admitted to any school where there was a collection exhibited from South Kensington?—I do not know of the rule; I may be wrong.

1862. There is a new departure, is there not, with regard to schools of art of late years?—Yes.

1857. I think it began in the time of the late Vice-President?—Yes.

1858. And the late Vice-President wrote a minute by means of which objects were sent from South Kensington to schools of art for practical educational purposes and nothing else, that is to say, for the use of students in the School of Art?—Yes.

1859. And those objects are really put into a case like any other object sent to the Museum?—Yes.

1860. As present neither the student nor the Head Master can touch them?—That is so.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

1861. As I understand now, objects of that kind sent under those conditions are not subject to the requirement that they shall be open to the public, they are simply sent for the advantage of the students of these institutions: Is that so?—The list I gave to the Chairman, certainly.



6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. ARNOLD GRAVES, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *Daly*.

1861\*. You, I understand, have been a Barrister?—Yes.

1862. Were you recommended by Lord Ripon for the position of School Inspector?—I was placed on the list by Lord Ripon a great many years ago from which School Inspectors in England were selected without examination.

1863. It was in England that you were placed on the list?—Yes, on the English list of inspectors.

1864. What position do you occupy at the present time?—I am Secretary to the Irish Charity Commissioners.

1865. And you have taken an interest in the Dublin Science and Art Museum?—Yes. I am Honorary Secretary to the Technical Educational Association for Ireland and also Honorary Secretary to the City of Dublin Technical Schools, and I have been since their foundation. I was for some years before I held my present post Secretary to the Commissioners of Education for endowed Schools, and in that way my attention has been drawn from time to time to museums as machinery for instruction.

1866. Since you went to Ireland you have taken a great interest in technical education there?—Yes. I am Irish, I did not go to Ireland; I was born there.

1867. Are you desirous of seeing a College of Science established in Dublin?—We have a College of Science established in Dublin. I should like to see some changes in that College of Science, but I do not know that that is a matter relevant to the present inquiry.

1868. Is it your opinion that the Dublin Museum performs even in a medium way the duties it should towards the Irish people?—I do not think that any museums under the present system do as much service to the country as they might do if certain changes were made in the way in which they were managed.

1869. What changes would you recommend to the Committee should be made?—In the first place, I think that there is a very great difficulty in using the collection, owing to the want of guides. An educated man, no doubt, if you put a really good guide into his hand, might succeed in using the collection. I doubt if the guides for our museums are as complete as they should be, but I think even if you place a really good guide in the hands of a man in the museum, it is only a thoroughly educated man who would be able to benefit by the excellent collections that are brought together by South Kensington. In my humble opinion, I think you want more living guides rather than paper guides. That to my mind is the first suggestion I would make with regard to using these exhibitions, and in my humble opinion the Museum in Dublin is a very excellent collection, and I think the officers of it are very capable men; but of course they are carrying out a system. I think the Museum in Dublin is not used very much for the purpose for which it is intended. I should say that the great majority of the people who go there, are either people who have nothing whatever to say to industry, or else if they are members of the

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Mr. *Daly*—continued.

working classes I think they go there rather because it is a place where they can spend an evening in warmth and comfort, where they go about with their mouths open, and not paying attention to the exhibits which affect their own particular industries, and which would be of use to them, and I think the reason of that is that they have not got guides to take them about.

1870. I will take it that you have been a pretty frequent visitor to the Dublin Museum, and have observed what you have mentioned?—I used to pass through the Museum every day for some years. It was a short cut from my house to my office, and I was accordingly recorded. I may say as two visitors every day, once on my way there, and once on my way back, so that in that way I did pass through the collection very constantly. I regret to say that perhaps I more often used it as a short cut than anything else, and on that subject I think it is only fair that I should call attention to what I propose giving evidence upon, and that is the figures that are put in by the Department with regard to the attendance at the Museum. The figures of the attendance at the Museum would suggest a very large attendance at the Museum, treading pretty close on South Kensington, but as a matter of fact from my experience a very large proportion of the persons who are taken down as being attending at the Museum are really only persons using it as a short cut. It is the natural short cut from Merrion Square and that district to the centre of Kildare Street and Dawson Street, and when I used to pass through it at 10 and 4 o'clock I used to notice a very large proportion of people who passed in in front of me, also passed out in front of me, and therefore the figures, I think, give rather an exaggerated idea of the amount of good the Exhibition is doing.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

1871. Do you mean they made a public thoroughfare of it?—Yes, that it is made a public thoroughfare. I do not blame the department for that—that is the accident of the museum.

Mr. *Daly*.

1872. You assert that the number of visitors recorded at the turnstiles does not indicate that they take an interest in the Museum?—I think you would have to make a very considerable discount for the people who use it as a short cut.

1873. Last year Colonel Plunkett was examined here, and he stated that the number of visitors that were recorded for the year 1896 was 478,015. Now, according to your idea, a great many of those use the Museum merely as a short cut from one street to the other?—I should say a very substantial proportion. I could not form any correct notion. I like to be accurate, and I could not say how many. You have also in that museum, as regards the amount of good it is doing in Dublin, the Isle of Man trippers twice a week during the summer months; a boatload of trippers comes to Dublin from the Isle of Man with its 1,000 trippers and sometimes more, and

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6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

the usual practice for these trippers is that they go to four places; they pay so much—the cars are arranged by Cook or Gaze or some of these people, and four or six people get on a car, and among other places they all drive off to this Museum. Therefore twice a week there is a very large accession in the numbers who are taken out as attending the museum who are trippers from the Isle of Man. I do not mean to say that the Museum may not be doing some good in that way, but I do not think it is benefiting Dublin as far as that is concerned.

1874. You think that the numbers I have read out in 1896 are not accurate with regard to visitors interested in viewing the objects in the Museum?—I should think not.

1875. So that it would be an exaggeration to say that 478,015 people who visited the Museum in 1896 went to view the objects there?—To view the objects there with any educational object.

Mr. Woodall.

1876. Would not that be true of most exhibitions which attract excursionists and other visitors in the same way?—It would to a certain extent, but I do not think at all to the same extent as in Dublin, because, as I say, the Museum happens to be a short cut; I do not think South Kensington is a particularly short cut from any one place to another.

Mr. Daly.

1877. Have you visited any other museum except the Dublin Museum?—Yes, I have.

1878. Have you ever been in any other museum where you found a short cut from one street to the other?—Not to my knowledge, but I do not say there are not such museums.

1879. So that a great many people who pass from Merrion Square to Kildare Street just use the Museum as a short cut?—Certainly.

1880. There is no objection, I suppose, made by any person to prevent a person passing through. In wet weather particularly it is not only a short cut, but a sheltered short cut.

Mr. Foxall.

1881. A kind of arcade?—Yes, quite so.

Mr. Daly.

1882. Do you consider that the Dublin Museum performs the functions it was intended for as well as it might to the Irish people?—I have said already that with regard to the living guides it might do more good in that way. I do not wish to compare Dublin Museum as being worse managed in this respect than other museums, but I think there are other directions in which it might perform its functions better. In the first place, I would suggest that I think the Museum might get more into touch with the industries of the country than it does at present. For example, I do not think that the exhibits at the exhibition bear any very direct relation to the industries of Dublin or to the industries of Ireland. I think they might be made to bear a very much closer relation to the industries of Ireland if the officers of the Department were assisted by Sub-Committees,

Mr. Daly—continued.

who were related to the different industries in the country. I think it would make the people connected with the different industries take a greater interest in the collections. I think that another effect would be that it would make the selection of objects more practically useful. I do not mean to suggest for a moment that the objects should not be objects of art, but I do think that *ceteris paribus*, if the two objects in all other respects are equal as works of art, the one that is of more immediate advantage to the industry and to the wants of the industry at the time should be selected, and I think in doing that different Committees connected with the different industries would be of great assistance to the officers of the department. No doubt, as mere experts, as to the value of objects, and also as regards their being artistic, the officers may possibly have a monopoly of taste in the matter, but I think they would get great assistance from local committees of the kind; and I think, furthermore, that if such committees were appointed they would relieve the officers of the department of a great deal of opprobrium that is attached to them from making mistakes in the selection of objects.

1883. I suppose then your idea in coming here to-day was to bring the Dublin Museum into touch with the industries of the country?—Yes.

1884. Have you thought of any improvement in the management of the Dublin Museum, and will you give your views to the Committee with regard to it?—That is with regard to the Dublin Museum generally, or to the general system of museum management under the Science and Art Department?

1885. As to the management of the Dublin Museum. With regard to Dublin Museum generally, I may say that the industrial collection I have heard very generally condemned in Dublin. I am not talking of the artistic portion of it, but the industrial portion. For instance, take the looms.

1886. In your opinion are there out-of-date objects in prominent positions in the Dublin Museum. Yes, in connection with manufactures, certainly there are. These particular looms are entirely out of date, and all these models of machinery are entirely out of date. They have been there I do not know how many years—since the Museum was founded—and there have been very few additions made to them since. They may have some historical value, but really I do not think they have any other value.

1887. Do you think that the works relating to Irish industry and manufactures should be in the most prominent place in the Dublin Museum? I think they should be in a more prominent place than they are.

1888. What is your opinion with regard to the Dublin Museum being popular with the working classes?—Well I have often put the question to different employers of labour in Dublin, "Do your employes use the Museum?" and the almost invariable answer is that, so far as they know, they do not use it. Employers are certainly not in the habit of sending their employes to the Museum as they do in some places, and so far as I can make out myself from talking to a great many members of our technical schools



6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

schools, it is not at all the habit of the workmen in Dublin to use the Museum; very few of the working men use it.

1889. Have you thought or can you suggest to the Committee—as that is the purpose we are assembled here for—any means that would make the Dublin Museum more attractive to the working classes?—I think my suggestion about the living guides would go a long way in that direction, as also would the giving of lectures in the Museum. I think an attempt was made last year under Colonel Plunkett's management to do it in certain directions rather in an amateur sort of way, but it certainly did attract a good deal of attention, and did draw a certain number to the exhibition of the kind of people I should like to see there, and I think it is an experiment which might be very much improved. I regard the exhibition at Bethnal Green, which is referred to in the report of the Science and Art Department of last year, as indicating certain lines in which that sort of thing could be done. In the Bethnal Green experiment you had a committee not only of the Department, but a committee of persons interested in the particular industry, and the people were shown round, and they were allowed to take photographs of these different exhibits. That special exhibition in 1896 at Bethnal Green had reference to a particular industry in the locality. The consequence was that it was very largely attended, and by the report of the Department I see it is distinctly stated that the exhibition has left its mark on the industry in the locality?—You refer to the special exhibition held at Bethnal Green.

1890. You refer to the special exhibition held at Bethnal Green?—Yes, I would suggest that with regard to the museum in Dublin exhibitions on the lines of that exhibition of Bethnal Green should frequently be held there. We have had no exhibition in Dublin of any size for a great many years past. The last exhibition was held in 1885, a general exhibition.

1891. It is only by guide books, I suppose, the artisans of Dublin can learn anything with regard to the objects that are on view?—That is so.

1892. And your opinion is that there should be living guides that would explain the objects that are exhibited in the Dublin Museum?—Yes.

1893. Have you thought of how the guides might at certain times lead parties round and explain the different objects of interest?—I have not gone into any very definite plan, but I see no reason why such a plan should not be successful if a sufficient number of living guides were appointed. When I say living guides I do not mean merely the class of persons who show people round cathedrals, but I mean persons who have the qualification of science teachers and so on, and who would be able to explain the uses of the processes of the different objects in the exhibition, and their relation to each other, and so on.

1894. Just a keeper?—Quite so; a keeper or assistant keeper. I think it might be desirable that such persons should make their rounds at stated periods in the day, so that persons wishing to use the exhibition might have the advantage

0.5—9.

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

of their services on those particular occasions, and if they wished to use them by themselves they could go at other times.

1895. It is your opinion that the museum in Dublin would be made more popular if there were living guides, that would explain the particular objects that are on view there?—Yes.

1896. I think you stated that it takes a man of education to understand a great many objects that are in Dublin, and for that reason you would suggest living guides?—Yes.

1897. You do not think, then, from your evidence that the Dublin Museum is at the present moment much appreciated by the working classes?—Not as much as it should be.

1898. I wish to have it clearly understood that in your opinion if living guides were to lead parties round and deliver lectures at certain times, the museum would be made more popular with the working classes?—Yes.

1899. Now, with regard to lectures, are you aware whether there were any lectures delivered in Dublin Museum?—Last session a few lectures were arranged, but that was done in an amateur sort of fashion. Colonel Plunkett, out of an excellent spirit, I am sure, and wishing to make the museum as useful as possible, got some volunteers to deliver lectures on the subject, but I do not think this is a matter that should be left to volunteers. I think it should be taken up as part of the duty of the museum.

Mr. *Foxall*.

1900. Do you think that the persons employed in the museum at the present moment, who are in charge of the collections there, are as a rule, persons capable of giving these lectures to which you refer?—I have no knowledge of all their qualifications, but I should say certainly this great majority of them would be thoroughly competent, but then they might object to perform additional duties without being paid for them. That was no part of their duties when they were appointed, and you could scarcely expect them to do it without being paid for it.

Mr. *Daly*.

1901. You have mentioned the word amateur, may I ask on what subjects these amateurs gave lectures?—I cannot be quite sure what they were, but I think Mr. Sullivan gave a lecture on book-binding, and he is an amateur of book-binding. I think Colonel Plunkett himself gave a lecture on some subject, whether it was furniture or not I am not quite sure, but it was a subject on which with all respect I would call him an amateur, it is not his speciality. I cannot tell at this moment what the other lectures were.

1902. Have you any idea, or did you hear whether these lectures had been taken advantage of?—Yes, and I think excited a good deal of interest.

1903. You seem not to be satisfied with lectures from amateurs; do you say there should be professional lecturers from time to time?—Certainly, that is my idea; my idea is that the thing should be part of the regular duty of certain officials belonging to the museum.

1904. I suppose you have not thought as to who should have the choosing of the subjects to lecture



6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

lecture upon?—I cannot say I have; I should say with regard to the subjects of the lectures, the keeper of each particular department in consultation with the Director of the Museum, or if there were as I suggested, Committees with relation to the different industries also on consultation with those Committees, might select the subject for the lectures. I think I would leave the initiation of the ideas to the keeper of the particular department.

1905. Is it a fact that there was encouragement given by South Kensington Museum to train science teachers?—Not in connection with the Museum; I do not know whether that would be a matter within the scope of this enquiry.

Mr. *Yoxall*

1906. Do you consider that the museum is made as helpful in the production of a science teacher and inculcating science teaching as it might be?—No, I do not think it is; I think a great deal more might be made of the collections if something was done, as I see was done here in London. I see that the Teachers of the Royal College of Science have access to the scientific collections at South Kensington Museum, and teachers and their classes have been taken round, and the uses of these apparatus have been explained to them. I do not see that that is done in Dublin, and I think it would be an extremely desirable thing that these collections might be made use of in that way. I would largely increase the collection of scientific apparatus, and I think it would be a very desirable thing that you should have attached to the Museum, and as part of the machinery of the Museum, classrooms and rooms where the objects in the Museum might be made use of by demonstrators for the purpose of instruction.

Mr. *Daly*.

1907. Are any class-rooms attached to the Dublin Museum?—I think there is one room in connection with botany that is used to some extent; I am not quite sure, but if so that will be the only one.

1908. Are there any laboratories?—No.

1909. Do you know anything about teachers of schools receiving assistance in the way of instruction in science in South Kensington?—In Ireland? I see by the Report of the Science and Art Department there was only one class in Ireland received the loan of a science collection. I see that out of sixty schools that received such loans only one Irish school received a loan.

1910. You would suggest that classes should receive assistance in Ireland?—I think myself that if these loans, instead of coming over from South Kensington, formed part of the collections at Dublin, and if they were on loan from Dublin Irish schools would use them very much more largely than they do at present. In that context I might say that it is a most desirable thing for the education of the country that they should, because I observe from the Report of the Intermediate Education Board that the examiners point out that the answering of the pupils at the intermediate examination indicated that the teaching in chemistry and physics, sound, electricity, magnetism, and botany is merely book

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

teaching, and that there is no laboratory teaching, and no practical teaching. I may say, having been in the good intermediate schools myself, I can state from my own experience that where these subjects are taught they are generally taught without any scientific apparatus or laboratories, and I think that an unfortunate thing. I think that if collections of scientific apparatus were on loan in this way from the Museum, it would at any rate get rid of some of that difficulty, and make the teaching in our schools practical.

1911. You think schools in Ireland would avail themselves of these things?—Very much more largely than at present.

1912. You would like to see class-rooms established in the Dublin Museum?—I should.

1913. And also laboratories?—Yes; I think if there were classrooms in the Dublin Museum arrangements might easily be made for the different intermediate schools in Dublin to bring their pupils there at particular times to use these collections, subject of course to the supervision of the Keeper of that particular department.

1914. And you would also like to see arrangements made that the management of the Dublin Museum should be able to lend apparatus from time to time to the schools in Ireland that would be inclined to borrow.—Certainly.

1915. They might get them on the same lines as the schools in England are treated by South Kensington?—Certainly.

1916. As to the buildings of the Dublin Museum, what is your opinion?—With regard to the buildings I observe that even in the Report of the Director, and the Report of the Visitors they suggest the necessity for enlarging the buildings in connection with the Industrial Department, and in connection with two or three other directions it is suggested they should be added to, but of course if the suggestions I have now made were carried out, it would be necessary to make still further additions. I should like to see a room with sufficient floor space available which would not be filled with permanent exhibits, but which would be available for temporary exhibitions from time to time such as that I have alluded to—this temporary exhibition at Bethnal Green. I should like to see class rooms and laboratories available in connection with the exhibition for instruction, and I should like to see a very considerable extension of the building available for the industrial collections. I should like to see machinery in motion; they have machinery in motion at South Kensington Museum, and I think it would be a very desirable thing that we should have machinery in motion in Dublin.

Sir *Henry Howarth*.

1917. Have you no machinery in motion in Dublin at all?—None.

Mr. *Daly*.

1918. You say that in your opinion there should be instruction rooms in the Dublin Museum?—Yes.

1919. And you also consider that there is more room required for industrial objects in Dublin Museum?—More room for industrial objects



6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

objects, and I think that with regard to the room for objects generally, if I might make a suggestion, some room might be found if more power was given—I cannot say myself—I am not in the secrets of the Department; but I think if more power was given to the Department to sell objects as well as to buy objects, a great deal more room might be found both at South Kensington and other museums. It often happens that when objects are bought they have considerable value for museum purposes; that value, with lapse of time, may cease, or you may get better specimens of the same thing, and, at the same time, once an object goes into the exhibition, certainly in Dublin, it seems to remain there indefinitely, and I would suggest that if committees such as I suggested before with power to buy objects were also empowered from time to time to visit the collection and sort out objects which were out of date. I think if that were done, and those objects sold by public auction, much good would come. In the first place, as I say, it would afford considerable additional space for other purposes. In the second place it would afford you a fund for buying new objects, and I think that is very desirable, and also, as I said before, it would keep the different industries—persons connected with the different industries—in direct touch with the exhibition, which I consider so very useful.

1920. Is it a fact to your knowledge that the intermediate examiners in schools in Ireland state that the Instruction in Botany, Light, and Heat is all bookwork?—Yes; if you wish it I can give you the exact words. The Examiner in Chemistry for 1896 uses these words. I am reading from a document which is the Report of the Technical Education Association for Ireland, but I have here in inverted commas the words which appear in the Report of the Commissioners of Intermediate Education, published in 1897, the words are used there with regard to chemistry, “they (the pupils) have wasted their time committing portions of chemical books to memory;” the Examiner in Mechanics reports that it is a matter of getting up books.

1921. Is it a fact that the Intermediate Examiners state that it is all book learning instead of having illustrations in the schools in Ireland?—I have quoted the words and I have given you my own experience on the subject.

1922. What is your opinion as to the exhibits in the Dublin Museum, taking into account that Ireland is largely an agricultural country?—I do not think the Museum has taken that into account at all. I have here a halfpenny catalogue of the Museum, and in the “Industrial Collection” the *précis* of that is “models of manufactories, carbonate of soda, coal gas, concentration of sulphuric acid, &c.; looms for tweeds, silks, ribbons; silk throwing and winding; Italian and other textiles.” And then there is machinery, but I think agriculture is not taken into consideration. I do not wish to pass any opinion of my own as to whether the museum would be a suitable place for that or not.

1923. Do you think that exhibits could not be put in Dublin that would be of benefit to both  
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Mr. Daly—continued.

farmers and artisans?—When you take botany of course there is a botanical collection at the museum, and no doubt an exhibition of machinery for farming might be a very useful and desirable thing.

1924. Considering that Ireland lives almost entirely by agriculture?—Yes. Do not take me as suggesting that, however.

1925. I have you in the chair, and I wish to ask your opinion as an Irishman. Do you not think it would be necessary that the Dublin Museum should have matters connected with industries that are necessary in Ireland?—I think it is very desirable that there should be a permanent exhibit of that kind in Ireland. I think it very desirable that there should be a permanent exhibit somewhere in Ireland of objects of that kind, but whether that should be in the Dublin Museum or not I would not like really offhand to answer—I think it a matter that would require some little consideration.

1926. Have you thought now what objects in Dublin Museum should get prominence considering the manufactures that are situated in Ireland?—I think I have. I could give you roughly a list of the leading Irish trades. I suppose our leading trade in Dublin is brewing—Guinness’s Brewery. Of course, with regard to manufactures there is not the least doubt about it that in the same way as you can illustrate the manufacture of carbonate of soda and coal gas, you can illustrate brewing. After brewing, perhaps our next largest industry in Dublin is distilling. I do not know whether an exhibition of models might encourage illicit distilling or not.

1927. But you would run the chance of that?—The linen manufacture is of course the principal manufacture in Belfast, and I observe that the linen industry is not really dealt with in the exhibition at all, and I think it very desirable that it should be. Of course, if it were the case, as I would suggest, that museums should not be confined to the Metropolis—if there was a museum in Belfast, similar to the Dublin museum I think, of course linens might be relegated to Belfast, but as the Dublin museum is the one museum for the whole of Ireland, I do think that linens should occupy a more prominent position than they do.

Mr. Kenrick.

1928. Is there no museum at all in Belfast supported by the City Council of Belfast?—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. Daly.

1929. I think I am right in saying that there is no museum in Ireland except the museum in Dublin? [To Colonel Plunkett.] Am I right in saying there is no museum in Ireland except in Dublin?

Colonel Plunkett]. There are two museums in Belfast.

Sir Henry Howarth]. Under the Department?

Colonel Plunkett]. One under the Corporation of Belfast, and one under a society called the Philosophical Society.

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6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

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Sir Henry Howarth]. Are they museums in any sense assisted by your Department, or are they merely small local museums?

Colonel Plunkett]. They have some loans from Dublin.

Mr. Daly]. They get no support from Imperial sources.

Mr. Kenrick.

1930. You know the museums in England or in Scotland, but at any rate in England under corporation management, get loans from South Kensington. Is that carried out in regard to the museums in Ireland?—Colonel Plunkett could answer that question better than I can.

1931. I mean besides the Dublin one?—I could not tell you.

1932. Perhaps Colonel Plunkett would tell.

Colonel Plunkett]. Yes, they have loans from the South Kensington Museum in these museums in Belfast, but Belfast Museum is not under me.

Chairman]. I have before me a return of provincial museums and so on to which Art and Science Collections have been contributed during the year. At Belfast they have 397,000 visitors.

[Witness.] I was asked to name what industries might be given more prominence to in the Museum. I observe that within the last year or two under Colonel Plunkett's management there has been some move in the direction of architecture; that is to say, there are some photographs in a side gallery relating to architecture. I know as a matter of fact that the architects of Dublin regret very much that there is no Faculty of Architecture attached to any institution, and that there is no architectural museum. There is such a collection in London, and I think that architecture might be taken up, and I would suggest to the Director that it might be taken up in connection with the collection of furniture. I mean to say one of the witnesses who was here just before I was examined to-day called attention to the relation between furniture and decoration. I think, in the same way, the relation between furniture and architecture might be brought out in the exhibition, and in that way architecture might be made a more leading feature of the exhibition than it is at present. With regard to two other industries, the printing industry is a pretty substantial industry in Dublin, and I think it has been recently in London made the subject of a separate exhibition of printing.

Sir Henry Howarth.

1933. Do you mean typography?—I would make it wider, and generally including lithographic printing and the different forms of printing, and I think more attention should be given in the Museum to that subject. I observe that at South Kensington there is a very interesting collection of carriages. Carriage building was a very leading industry in Dublin up to not many years ago, and I think it an industry that ought to be kept up, and the museum might do something in that way as South Kensington has done. I would also suggest that possibly something more might be done in relation to the

Mr. Henry Howarth—continued.

stone carving. The public buildings in Dublin give indications of a great deal of natural talent among the stone-carvers in Ireland. What is known as the New Museum in Trinity College and the Grafton-street Club and other public buildings in Ireland connoisseurs of stone-carving have often expressed admiration of the work done by the Irish stone-carvers on those buildings, and I think possibly something more might be done in relation to stone-carving than is done at present. I think that a little bit more might be done in relation to the silversmiths' work; there is a great deal of gold work in the exhibition, but I think that most of our old Irish work in connection with the precious metals was in silver. We are not a very wealthy people, and I think if our exhibits were more confined to silver than gold it would be more in keeping with our requirements. I think, also, that possibly something more might be done in relation to all the industries relating to leather. Ireland is a great cattle breeding country, and owing to the fact that our cattle are exported alive out of the country, the skins go with them, and the result is that all the trades which have arisen out of the cattle have disappeared at the same time. I think, however, as we used to be great tanners in Ireland and good saddlers and so on, and as they were old Irish industries, perhaps some greater attention might be paid in the Museum to saddlery and tanning, tanning in the manufacturing portion of it because I think one of the reasons why our Irish tanneries fell behind the world was that they did not adopt modern machinery and modern processes, and the consequence was that the leather was perhaps not so good, and it took a great deal longer to make, so that they were not able to turn their money over so often. I think generally speaking those are the industries I would suggest greater attention should be paid to in the Museum.

Mr. Daly

1934. With regard to coach-building; what is your opinion about the exhibits in the Dublin Museum?—I am not aware that there are any.

1935. With regard to borrowing, are you aware whether there is any exhibit in the exhibition with regard to brewing or distilling; two leading Irish industries?—If there is anything it is out of date.

1936. And as to leather, are there any specimens on view in Dublin, and, if so, are they also antiquated?—I would not say that; I say not sufficient attention is paid to it. That is my view on the subject.

1937. Nearly all the Irish industries to your mind are to a certain extent neglected in the Museum?—I would not say that; that is going too far. Taking the furniture department, that under Colonel Plunkett has been, I think, very well brought up to date. The lace department is very well looked after—I think possibly more might be done there, and I think that is a direction in which it would be very desirable to spend money—but I think in those directions the show is very creditable. In ceramics and that sort of thing you have a very good collection. Unfortunately the manufacture in that direction



6 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

direction in Ireland is very small compared with what it was. We do very little in glass-making—hardly anything, and the Beleck works are practically the only works of the kind we have in Ireland, and Vodry also does some faience work.

1938. Furniture and lace to your mind are just about the two Irish industries that are up to date in the Museum?—I think they are best represented. I do not want to be too sweeping in my condemnations at all. As I say, I think more might be done if there was more room, and some of the collections are not up to date.

1939. Now do you know who it is that selects the various exhibits in Dublin?—You have got somebody in the room who can give the information much better than I can. I understand that the person responsible is the Director, and of course he consults the keepers in the different collections, and also I believe in connection with Art matters he consults the Art Director over here in London, when replicas are made and that sort of thing. Although I have a great respect for Colonel Plunkett's judgment in these matters, I do think it would be an advantage, as I said before, if there were Committees connected with the different industries with whom he might consult in making his purchases.

1940. You mean Irishmen that understood the industries?—Irishmen, so far as we have Irishmen, and if we have not Irishmen in particular directions, then I would get help over in London, because I think it very desirable that even if we made mistakes in the way of buying objects, those mistakes would not be money lost, because I think in making mistakes we would be educating ourselves. When you give the franchise to people they make mistakes at first, but they become educated, and after being educated then they exercise their franchise properly, and I think there should be local control of the Museum, although we might make a great many mistakes in the first instance, and spend money perhaps wastefully in the same way as our County Councils have spent some of the beer and spirit money wastefully. Still at the same time I think the experiments which have been made have been useful, and have educated the managers of our technical schools, and that in the end it is much better that things should be done in that way rather than that we should have everything done for us, even if we make mistakes.

1941. What I wish to draw your attention to is this—that if we take the linen industry, would you not think that some manufacturer in Ireland, who was interested in the linen industry, should be a better man to select objects for exhibiting in the Dublin Museum or to confer with the Director?—Most certainly to confer with the Director.

1942. Now with regard to brewing and distilling, would the same apply in your mind?—Even more so, because when a subject becomes very technical, the selection of the very latest up to date machinery or appliances would necessitate very special knowledge, and therefore you could not expect the Director of the

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Mr. Daly—continued.

Museum to have that special technical knowledge in all the different subjects.

1943. Then in the several industries which are known to be the most prominent in Ireland, to your mind it would be necessary that a conference should take place between the Managing Director and those people employed in the several industries as to what objects should be on exhibition in the Museum?—I think it would be desirable not only that he should confer, but that there should be special committees for the purpose. I mean I would not, if I was given my way in the matter, leave it to mere chance as to who should be consulted or not, but that in particular directions there should be certain persons whom the Directors of Museums would feel that in going to they were going to the right persons.

1944. You have mentioned the lace industry; have you made up your mind that any improvement would be necessary with regard to the lace manufacture, as that is one of the leading industries in Ireland?—I do not profess to be an expert in lace, but I think that the Irish lace is an industry which is capable of very great improvement—there is not the least doubt—and great efforts are being made in that direction. Mr. Brennan, the Head Master of the Metropolitan Drawing School, has made great efforts in that direction, and has done a great deal. I think the Department are fully aware of the necessity for supplying the Irish lace workers with better designs. Mr. Cole, one of the officers of the Museum comes over to Ireland periodically and interviews the managers of schools, and sometimes gives us the benefit of a lecture, and I suppose he is one of the best living authorities on the subject. There is a Society outside that, but I am not to give evidence outside the Museum. There is a Trust called the Branchardière's Trust, of which Mr. Brennan is practically the executive, and they have money to the tune of about £120 a year, which they apply to improving designs, paying designers and paying for the expenses of teaching, and training people in a suitable place where they can be trained in the application of art to this particular industry.

1945. You mentioned Mr. Cole. Is he from South Kensington Museum?—Yes.

1946. And he goes to Ireland and gives lectures?—Yes. I do not know that it is his duty to do it at any stated time, but from time to time I know he does give lectures, and very excellent ones.

1947. You are of opinion that lectures from time to time on the various leading Irish industries would stimulate the industries in Ireland?—Certainly.

1948. And you would suggest as far as your knowledge goes that the managers of the Dublin Museum should adopt lectures from time to time and have lectures delivered on the different objects?—I think it is very desirable, and I am sure the director is aware of the desirability of it himself.

1949. You are not aware that there have been lectures delivered on brewing, distilling, or leather making, or any of those things?—No, I could not tell you exactly what subjects lectures have been given upon. I did get a syllabus last year, and

0.5—9.

I think



6 May 1898.]

MR. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

I think there were altogether not more than a dozen. Colonel Plunkett would give you that evidence.

1950. What is your opinion as to the exhibits in wood-carving, ironwork, and chair-making, &c.?—That is in connection with the furniture department; there is a section of wood-carving. There are some excellent specimens, but I think there is a direction in wood-carving that perhaps the department might take into consideration, and that is—I do not know what the technical term for it is—but it is wood-carving in relief or in alto relievo, like the Swiss work, so much of the Irish carving—bog-oak carving, and that sort of thing—is in that way, and it is not merely the carving of panels for the purpose of cabinet-making, but it is the carving of objects, and I think it would be desirable perhaps that among the exhibits in the exhibition more attention should be paid to exhibits of that kind.

1951. I think you stated to the Committee that there are no machinery exhibits in motion in the Dublin Museum?—That is so.

1952. With regard to the linen industry, which is a very large industry in Ireland—to your mind do you not think it would induce artisans to attend if there were looms in motion?—I have not the least doubt that if you had machinery in motion at the exhibition you would have a large attendance of people of the right sort at the exhibition. I have no doubt that with the present vote for the Museum it would be absolutely impossible to do anything of the kind. As it is the vote for the Museum—Colonel Plunkett can correct me if I am wrong—I think the vote given every year for purchases is only £2,000 in the Museum. The Museum authorities would find it very hard with their grant to put in the necessary power, and put in the necessary plant, and then maintain the power afterwards. You would have to get an increase of the vote.

1953. I am merely asking for information: is

Mr. Daly—continued.

it the fact that machinery is in motion at South Kensington?—Yes.

1954. And, then, because there is not sufficient money voted by the Treasury for the Dublin Museum; that is the reason, possibly, that the machinery is not in motion in Dublin?—I cannot tell you the reason, but I can state the fact.

1955. You assume that may be one of the reasons?—I should think very likely.

1956. And when you mention the sum of £2,000, may I take it that you think that quite inadequate for the wants of the Dublin Museum?—Well, if they are to adopt any of these additional suggestions, quite inadequate.

1957. Also, I suppose, the same would apply to dairy exhibits, Ireland being a butter-making country?—Yes.

1958. What is your opinion with regard to the exhibits in connection with the manufacture of butter in the Dublin Museum—are there any?—I do not think so.

1959. Considering that there are creameries erected in Ireland lately there is no machinery in keeping with up to date requirements?—I do not profess to know enough about the Museum to say that I know any single article that is in it. I am not aware that there is anything of that kind in the exhibition.

1960. There is one thing I would like to have your opinion pretty distinctly upon, and that is that you think that to make the artisans of Dublin understand the exhibits in the Dublin Museum thoroughly a large share of the machinery affecting Ireland should be in motion?—Certainly.

1961. With regard to the Grant that has been made to the Dublin Museum, have you any figures with regard to how Dublin is treated?—I have; I prepared a table which I have here.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Committee on

Education

1902

REPORT OF THE

1902

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF GEOLOGY

Geological Survey of the  
United States  
Bureau of Geology  
Washington, D. C.  
1902



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 6th May 1898.*

<i>Mr. A. B. Skinner, B.A., F.S.A.</i>	-	p. 103
<i>Mr. Arnold Graves</i>	- - -	p. 111

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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No. 11  
Spate 1893

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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10.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Tuesday, 10th May 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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*Tuesday, 10th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Lord Balcarres.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.

Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ARNOLD GRAVES, again called in ; and further Examined.

*Mr. Daly.*

1962. ON Friday I was asking you with regard to the grants that had been made to the Dublin Museum : Have you considered how the Dublin Museum has been treated compared with South Kensington ?—Yes, I have prepared a table showing how Dublin has been treated in the matter of museums in comparison with England and Scotland. What I make out from the Estimates for the year ending 31st March 1899 is as follows :—I make out from page 336 of the Estimates that credit is taken for the estimate of 10,352*l.* for what is termed the Museum Division ; purchases for ditto, 14,710*l.*

*Lord Balcarres.*

1963. That is museums in general ?—That is the London museums, including Bethnal Green. Attendants at museums (page 342), 14,485*l.* ; stores, 4,840 ; police, 11,900*l.* ; furniture for the museum I make out at 3,800*l.* ; artisans, cleaners, &c., 15,800*l.* ; heating, 5,960*l.* ; van service, 3,950*l.* Well, now, I pass on from the South Kensington Museum, and I take into account the geological museum, for this reason, that our museum in Dublin also fulfils the function of a geological museum ; and therefore, in the account I take into account the money expended on the geological museum, and I see by the Estimates (page 344) that amount is 3,857*l.*

1964. Do you give those figures as the complete expenditure on South Kensington ?—No ; that is the estimate for the year 1899.

1965. Are you aware that that estimate is incomplete ?—That is, with regard to the new buildings ?

1966. No ; with regard to the establishment ?—No, I am not aware of that. I only take it from the estimates which are published by the department, and which can be bought for 4*s.* 4*d.*

1967. You have only taken it out of one class, Class 4 ?—Yes, out of Class 4.

1968. Of course there is provision made in other classes ?—Yes, that I know ; but I have not taken it out of the other classes.

*Chairman.*

1969. You are dealing with that branch of the case ?—Yes ; as the National Library for Ireland 0.5—10.

*Chairman—continued.*

is also included in the museum, it forms part of the same buildings and is under the control of the same director ; and as questions have been asked in connection with this National Library by different witnesses, and inasmuch as it has been put in evidence by Colonel Plunkett that with regard to art students it is used by them as the art library as well as a general library, therefore, in making the comparison between the two countries, I take into account on the one side the Irish National Library, and on the other side of the account the British Museum, and I see that in the vote for the British Museum, not taking into account anything that may be included in the estimate for the Board of Works, the estimate at page 351 is 162,280*l.* In bringing out this table which I have prepared (of course I am quite ready to leave it out), I have included in the table (though perhaps this Committee might consider it was not germane to this Inquiry) the vote for the National Gallery and the Wallace Gallery, and I observe that the vote for the National Gallery is 16,274*l.*, and for the Wallace Gallery 5,927*l.* Now, sir, adding up these figures, which, as Lord Balcarres has pointed out, do not include the votes taken in other classes, I make up a total, for the expenditure on museums in England alone, of 274,135*l.* ; that is for museums and galleries and the British Museum, which, besides being a library, is also a museum. Now, sir, taking the other side of the account, I find that in Ireland the lumped vote for the Dublin Museum and the National Library amounts to 23,154*l.* That is taken from Class 4. The vote for the National Gallery amounts to 2,504*l.*, making a total for Ireland of 25,658*l.* With regard to Scotland, I see that Scotland does not come out of it very well, judging from the Estimates. I find that the estimate for the Edinburgh Museum is 12,970*l.*, and for the National Gallery 4,400*l.*

1970. This is very useful and very interesting evidence, but I am afraid we are getting a little beyond the order of reference. We have to deal with the museums as they are. Any suggestion of some slight alteration is a different thing, only we must not get into the region of ideas ?—No, I think that the way I would suggest that this

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10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

this evidence would be germane to the Inquiry would be this: that I have made suggestions as to the necessity for expending more money on the Dublin Museum. If those suggestions were carried out, it would be necessary to increase the staff, to increase the buildings, and to increase the collections, and I think that it would be germane to the Inquiry to point out that we do not get our proportion of the vote, and that if we did get our proportion of the vote, it would be practicable to considerably extend the museum in the directions I have indicated. However, I shall bow to your ruling. I think Lord Spencer gave evidence when he was examined that there was some sort of a rough proportion between the amount expended in Ireland and in England, and I think if those figures are examined, you will find that as regards population that proportion was not regarded, because as regards population, I have taken out the figures in the census, and I see the population in Ireland in 1890 was 4,595,079, while the population of England was 29,002,525. If you look at these figures I have brought out, you will see the expenditure on museums in Ireland amounts to less than one-twelfth of the total vote of the United Kingdom, whereas as regards population it is about one-eighth, and if the vote was increased by that difference, we should then be in possession of funds adequate to put the museum on the basis I have suggested.

Mr. *Daly*.

1971. The figures you have given to the Committee lead you to believe that the Dublin Museum is entitled to larger grants considering the population?—Considering the population, yes; and inasmuch as in my humble opinion the museum only benefits the people who are living in the neighbourhood, I do not see how the vote for South Kensington benefits Ireland.

1972. The votes that are voted by the Houses of Parliament for South Kensington, you think, are no benefit to Ireland, as they should be?—I do not think they are in any way; the object of the exhibition is to assist in developing the industries of the country, and I do not think that the South Kensington collection in any way assists in the development of Irish manufacture or industry.

1973. From the figures I have taken down here with regard to the population of Ireland when compared with England, I see they are about one-seventh?—You have left out Scotland; it is one-eighth, because I did not give you the figures for Scotland. The figures for Scotland (4,025,647) show that it is one-eighth of the United Kingdom.

1974. Well, with one-eighth of the United Kingdom, we get one-twelfth of the vote?—Yes; that is to say, of the vote for museums, not of the entire vote for science and art; we actually only get one-half of what we are entitled to by the population of the total vote for science and art.

1975. You only get one-twelfth of the vote for museums, and one-half for science and art?—Less than one-sixteenth of the total vote for science and art. I do not propose putting in

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

those general figures, because the Chairman has pointed out, it may be extending the inquiry too much. I can put in figures as to the general vote for science and art, if you find it desirable.

*Chairman.*] If you put in the figures shortly, it might be of benefit; but science and art is outside our reference.

Mr. *Daly*.

1976. With regard to the Science and Art Museum of Dublin, do you think that the buildings are sufficient?—No; I agree with the opinion expressed by the Director, Colonel Plunkett, that the buildings are inadequate, and I think you will find in Colonel Plunkett's Report for 1897, he points out that it would be desirable to extend the museum in relation to the industrial collection, and with regard to the zoological collection, and with regard to the mineralogical collection, and also suggests the building of work-rooms for the purpose. I think, on Friday, I suggested the building of lecture-rooms, and also the building of a gallery, in which periodic exhibitions might be held of special Irish industries. Of course, that would cover a good deal of ground if it was all carried out.

*Chairman.*

1977. I think you will find the page is 433, Appendix H.?—Yes, I think that Report is full of suggestions of the need for new buildings.

Mr. *Daly*.

1978. In May, 1897, I asked Colonel Plunkett "Could you suggest to my Lords any extension of the buildings with regard to the Dublin Museum," and his answer was "Yes, I put it in my Annual Report, and I have also discussed it with Sir John Donnelly and others over here." And Colonel Plunkett stated that the space is very inadequate. That is in Questions 4673 and 4674. You agree with Colonel Plunkett that larger space is required in Dublin Museum?—Yes.

1979. Now, with regard to the control of the Dublin Museum, would you like to see it under local control?—Before you pass from that point, in connection with the new buildings, I might raise a point, and that is that I was examined before a committee to inquire into the question of a site for the Royal College of Science, the Departmental Committee of last year, and it was certainly the view of the members of the Departmental Committee, Captain Abney in particular, that the site for the Royal College of Science should be on the land adjacent to the new museum, where it would appear to me that the space should be reserved for increasing the museum; that is to say if the Government have any intention of increasing the museum. I think that, therefore, that is a matter that would have to be carefully gone into by the department, as to whether that site should be allocated towards the building of the Royal College of Science, which might afterwards be more useful for the extension of the museum. I do not express any opinion on the subject, but I think it a matter that should be very carefully guarded to see that the right thing was done.

1980. Could



10 May 1898.]

MR. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

1980. Could you offer any opinion to the Committee whether the Royal College of Science should be built on this vacant space, or would you suggest the extension of the museum buildings?—I think there is great advantage in having the Royal College of Science adjacent to the museum; the greatest possible advantages; but at the same time, in doing so, I think it is very desirable that the plans should be so made that there should be ample provision made for space for enlarging the museum. Colonel Plunkett talks of the museum in his evidence, and I quite agree with him, as the small beginning of what we may ultimately expect.

1981. Might I ask you what space this is which you say is vacant?—It is the space between Upper Main-street and Kildare-street; it runs right across from one to the other on the south side of the museum.

1982. Is it private property?—I believe it can be obtained, so I understand, and of course it could be obtained if the State wishes it.

1983. But it is private property at the present time?—I believe so; I would not like to express an opinion on that subject, but I believe so. There is some land there in the possession of the department, but I doubt whether there is anything like sufficient land in their possession for such new buildings as I have suggested. Colonel Plunkett can answer you on that point.

1984. There is some land at the present time adjacent to the Dublin Museum unbuilt on, and in the hands of the Museum Department?—There is; but Colonel Plunkett is here, and he can give you better information on that subject.

1985. You cannot give the information as to what space is unbuilt on at the present time?—I could not.

1986. As to the control of the museum, would you like to see the Dublin Museum largely controlled by the Irish people?—Well, I do not know about the Irish people; I would certainly like to see it controlled by an Irish board, and if Mr. Balfour's promise to introduce a Bill next Session, giving us a board of agriculture and industry is fulfilled, I think it might be very desirable to transfer the control of the Science and Art Museum in Dublin, along with all other matters relating to science and art instruction in Ireland, to this board, or to a board in connection with that board, in the same way that South Kensington is in connection with the Education Department.

1987. Are you aware that there is a board of visitors in Dublin in connection with the Science and Art Museum?—Yes.

1988. Could you give me the names of the members of that board of visitors?—I could not; the evidence has been given as to how they are appointed.

1989. But the names of the members of the board of visitors were not given. You are of opinion that Mr. Balfour's idea would be correct in forming a board in Dublin to manage the Dublin Museum?—I do not say that is Mr. Balfour's idea; I do not know what his idea is as to placing the museum under this board; he has not confided in me on the subject, but that is my own personal view.

1990. What?—That it should be under such a

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Mr. Daly—continued.

board, because it would then be in touch with the industries of the country, and I think it most essential that it should be in touch with the industries of the country.

1991. Your idea then is local control. Well, I said the Irish people, you would say an Irish board?—An Irish board; yes.

1992. I suppose there is very little difference between an Irish board and the Irish people. I might say that whatever your other opinions are, as far as the management of the Dublin Science and Art Museum is concerned, you are a Home Ruler on that point?—I am in favour of local self-government.

1993. Are you aware that the reports of the visitors have to pass through the director of the Dublin Museum?—It has been stated in evidence, and therefore I presume it is so.

1994. And that the director merely sends forward the views of the board of visitors with his own views to the management at South Kensington?—So it would appear.

1995. Do you think that a satisfactory way to manage the Dublin Museum?—No, I do not; I think it is extremely desirable that the board of control, or whatever they are called; I do not like the term "visitors," because that suggests they should only be a sort of advisers; but I think the board of control should have the power of initiation; no power of initiation is given to them, so it is stated in evidence, and they are only able not to decide upon but to report to the department on matters that are referred to them. I think it is desirable that they should, even if the present *regime* continues, have much greater power, and that they should have powers of initiating.

1996. You are of opinion that if the Dublin Museum were managed by a board in Dublin it would be more in touch with the wishes of the Irish people, and that the industries of Ireland would be more developed if under an Irish board?—I have no doubt about it; I have no doubt it would be popular. I think the general opinion in this matter is that we manage all other educational matters in Ireland by Irish boards. We manage elementary education, we manage intermediate education, we manage higher education, and I can see no reason, in fact, I think Sir John Gorst stated from his place in the House of Commons that he could see no reason, why an exception should be made in matters relating to science and art. I can see no reason myself why it should not be done, and I think it would be decidedly wise and also a popular measure of reform in the way of local self-government.

1997. Are you surprised that Dublin is treated in the way it is since reports have to pass through South Kensington Museum to get any grants for Dublin?—Well, I cannot help thinking that if these matters were under the control of an Irish board we should probably get more money for our wants than if it is managed by a London board. I say that, because if we compare the vote for Ireland for primary education and the votes and the moneys voted to intermediate education in Ireland, we shall find that the votes for these other departments in Ireland have been steadily increasing year by year, whereas reference to the votes for the Science and Art Department

for



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

for Ireland will show that they have been practically stationary as regards science and art. I presume that the same thing would happen with regard to museums.

1998. Could you give the Committee any idea why it is that larger sums are granted every year for South Kensington, and that the sums granted for Dublin Museum are almost stationary?—I think people at a distance always come off the worst. I may perhaps be wrong. That may be one of the causes. I would rather leave the facts to speak for themselves.

Lord *Balcarres*.

1999. Do I understand you to say that there has been a steady increase in the grants to the English parts of the Science and Art Department?—In the total vote for science and art in England.

2000. We are speaking of museums?—I was not talking of museums, but of the total vote for the department. I can give you the figures if you like, but I think it was stated that that would be outside the present inquiry.

Mr. *Daly*.

2001. Do you think that if a Dublin board were formed to take over the management of the Dublin Museum in the near future, the future contribution from the Treasury would in all probability be based on the contribution that has been given for some time past?—I think it likely, but really that is a matter that the members of the Committee can form as good an opinion of as I can.

2002. I only want to have your opinion?—That would be my opinion, I think, probably.

2003. As a practical man would it not be one of the reasons that South Kensington would have for starving the Dublin Museum in the way of grants in future, that a Dublin board had been formed, and would not the grants in the future be estimated on the sum given to Dublin in the past?—I would not like to attribute such Machiavellian policy to the Science and Art Department, but I think that as to your general statement I would agree, as a business man, that the probability is that if the painter was cut, and if we were allowed to control our own affairs with relation to museums of science and art in Ireland, the probability is that the amount that would be given to us would be the amount that had been expended by South Kensington on an average of years in Ireland, say five years, or whatever the time might be. Of course that is an opinion.

2004. You cannot be prevented from thinking or giving it as your opinion to the Committee that it might bear the construction I put on this matter, that the less money there has been voted to Ireland in the past the less would be voted in future?—I think that is probable.

2005. Have you considered the necessity of disposing of objects that become antiquated in Dublin Museum from time to time?—Well, I have already suggested that there should be committees of persons, not the visitors and not the referees, but persons who are connected with the different industries of the country, to advise the department as to the elimination of objects

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

from time to time, and I think I suggested that such objects should be sold by auction.

2006. And your idea then is that committees from outside should be appointed to confer with the director as to the disposal of certain objects in the museum?—I should rather say a series of committees; the museum has certain divisions, and I think I would have the committees in connection with each division so far as possible.

2007. Have you thought of any suggestion you would make to the Committee as to how those committees would be selected?—Are you talking now with regard to England or with regard to Ireland?

2008. With regard to Ireland?—I think that is rather a matter of arrangement; it would be very easy to manage it in England because you have got guilds, and I have no doubt the guilds would be only too pleased in England to assist the department in matters of the kind, and I think if they were it would be a popular move, and I think it would very much help in the selection of suitable objects and in the elimination of unsuitable objects, because on that point, I think, I may say that with regard to the selection or retention of objects there are many matters to be considered; there is the question of art, there is the question of educational value, and there is also the question of utility; the appropriateness of the object to a particular industry at a particular time, and I think on matters of that kind that experts in connection with particular industries would be able to give the department exceedingly valuable evidence. One of the witnesses, I am not quite sure who it was, but one of the witnesses examined before this Committee, stated that there was always a tendency on the part of the keepers to become archaeological, and I think there is that tendency. The keeper is not in constant connection with the trade, and therefore he might be expected more to know the value of a thing as a curio, or from archaeological reasons, and not in relation to a particular industry.

2009. Have you thought of who should nominate these committees to confer with the director?—I cannot say I have formed any definite opinion on the subject, as I say, I think such committees could be arranged by conference with the guilds.

2010. Do you think that the board of visitors to Dublin Museum at the present time fulfil their functions satisfactorily?—No, I do not at all, because, as I have already pointed out, they have no initiative; they are not asked at all to select the objects; the selection of the industrial and art objects is entirely in the hands of the director, in conjunction with the director over here in London. There is very little elimination goes on at all, and, as I have already pointed out, they have no initiative; they have only to decide on questions referred to them, and the department, if it chooses, may refer nothing to them.

2011. I think Sir John Donnelly stated here, in evidence, that the question of elimination does not arise in the case of art objects; do you agree with that?—It is rather presumptuous of me to set up my opinion against that of Sir John



10 May 1898.]

MR. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

John Donnelly on the matter; but if you wish my opinion, I differ from Sir John, and I think on that subject there was certainly evidence given by one of the witnesses. I took a note of it in reading over the volume of evidence. Mr. Clarke, in Answer 3087, admits there are various degrees of usefulness of the objects, and that some might, with advantage, be used permanently in circulation more for their technical than for their art qualities. I should say, if my opinion is asked for what it is worth, I should differ from Sir John Donnelly respectfully on that point.

2012. You do not agree with Sir John Donnelly with regard to the elimination of art objects?—I do not; I think there might be more elimination. I think, from time to time, you must get better examples, and when you get better examples, the worse examples might either be eliminated and sold, as I have suggested, or they might go into circulation.

2013. Would not that lead you to believe that it is all the more necessary for a local board to to confer with the director in Ireland?—Yes, I think so, that they might be kept up to date.

2014. With regard to your suggestions, as to lectures and demonstration, I should like to call your attention to Sir John Donnelly's evidence, that people are sick of being lectured, and that it would be hard to get an audience; that is in Answers 617 and 628, and you might refer to them?—"In various ways we have had lectures, and, in fact, I assisted in getting up a Saturday Lecture Society, and got people to lecture, trying a small fee; but the movement really died of inanition as we could not get anybody to come to the lectures. The people are sick of being lectured." "(Q.) They would not come to the lectures?—(A.) No." You ask my opinion on that point? Well, if it is a question of Saturday lectures I should say, certainly, from my knowledge of the habits of the working classes, you would not get the working classes in Ireland to attend Saturday afternoon lectures.

2015. But I did not mention Saturdays?—Do you ask me generally, would the people come to lectures?

2016. Yes?—I think they would come to lectures. I have no doubt they would come to lectures in Ireland.

2017. So then you do not agree with Sir John Donnelly on the broad question?—Let me read the rest of his evidence here.

2018. Do you agree that people in Ireland are sick of being lectured?—I remember now I read this over on Saturday night, and I think that Sir John's evidence there is, to some extent, contradictory, because at one time he says people would not come to the lectures, and later on he says, "In the abstract, of course, it would have been more useful, but it would have been almost impossible to carry it out"; that is the suggestion of lectures. "Supposing you had done that" (that is, lectures given in the museum) "in the small gallery with furniture in it and very little space besides, if you got 200 people in that place and they wanted to hear anybody speaking, they would have destroyed thousands of pounds worth of furniture; they would have stood on the chairs and tables."

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Mr. Daly—continued.

I think that is rather conflicting; in one place Sir John seems to fear such a crowd, the damage would be done to the property of the nation, and at another point he says they would not come to the lectures.

2019. Which of the two ideas do you imagine is correct, that they would not come to the lectures, or that there is a fear of spoiling the furniture?—From our experience in Dublin—you can ask Colonel Plunkett; I have read his evidence, and he stated that similar lectures held in the museum were well attended, that is to say, there were as many people there as could view the objects satisfactorily, and damage was not done.

2020. Since Colonel Plunkett got the management of the Dublin Museum, is it your idea that he has endeavoured to make the Dublin Museum popular?—I think that Colonel Plunkett has made a very good museum officer. He has made improvements in several directions, and, I think, has used his influence with the department to get many changes made both in connection with the Royal Irish Academy collection and the furniture collection and the lace collection.

2021. Are you aware that very valuable articles or very valuable objects, in South Kensington, are never sent to Dublin; ought that to be the case, do you think, as long as Dublin is under the control of South Kensington?—Reading over the evidence given by different members of the Science and Art Department before this Committee, it seems to be rather a generally received opinion that the most valuable collections should remain in London. Personally I do not agree with that view. I think that no matter how valuable an object may be, if it has more special reference to an industry which is followed more out of London than in London, I should say the proper place for that object, no matter what its value, is in the place where the industry is followed, if there is a suitable museum for exhibiting it. Supposing we say locksmiths' work is more followed in Birmingham than anywhere else, and that there is a very valuable object of locksmiths' art, then I should say that should be exhibited in Birmingham in preference to South Kensington Museum; or if there was anything specially affecting Irish industries, it should be treated in the same way. Take lace, for instance; I think it is very desirable that we should have very valuable exhibits of lace; the value of the exhibits should not interfere with their being sent to Dublin or Nottingham or Coventry, or any place where lace is an object of manufacture.

2022. And here again an Irish board, to your mind, would be useful and convenient?—Well, that I cannot say. I have no doubt the Irish board would acquire valuable objects for themselves, but if we had an Irish separate from an English board, it is quite possible that the English board would not give them to us. Of course, that has to be considered. One has to view a question from all its bearings. Of course, if an Irish board had the money they would buy the most valuable objects if desirable, and having got them they would remain in Dublin; therefore, we might presume that if they were particularly valuable

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10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

objects having special relation to Irish industry they would be bought by the Dublin board and would remain in Dublin.

2023. And it would be most likely, I daresay, that an Irish board would choose articles that would relate to Irish industries?—Yes, certainly.

2024. I think Colonel Plunkett has given evidence that when the students of the Metropolitan Drawing School at Dublin wish to consult works on art, they consult books at the National Library; do you consider that satisfactory?—There is a very fine Art Library at South Kensington, as I have always understood, which is available for the students, and I know the opinion of our librarian in Dublin, but it is perhaps better to get his opinion on the subject than mine. I know his opinion is that the library is not adequately supplied with works of the kind. Works of that kind are very expensive, and the total vote for the National Library for buying books every year is only 1,000*l*. That is to say there is a sum of 3,000*l*. voted for buying objects between the museum and the library, and as far as I can understand the practice is that 1,000*l*. of that is applied for the buying of books for the National Library. That is the vote for the year, and having regard to the fact that they have to buy books in every direction, every kind of book for the library, I think it is obvious that that library must be very inadequately supplied with works of art which are very expensive. With regard to technical books the library is lamentably deficient.

2025. Are you aware that of this 1,000*l*. for the Art Library to buy books a large sum has to go to buy newspapers?—I am aware of that.

2026. You cannot give an idea to the Committee about that?—It has been given in evidence, I think; or, at all events, it is in the report of the trustees of the library.

2027. I think I may say that the sum was 300*l*. from the return I have got?—Yes.

2028. And that leaves only 700*l*. for the purchase of books for the National Library?—Yes; and I may mention that the trustees of the library are always crying out to get their Vote increased. They say this, here, "The lack of modern books on technical education is particularly unfortunate at the present time. We would, therefore, again earnestly press on the Lords of Committee of Council on Education the application made in October last for such increase on the amount placed at their disposal as to enable us to meet the requirements of the public and to make the National Library of Ireland worthy of the position it occupies among the institutions of the country."

2029. That is the report of the trustees?—Yes.

2030. And you agree with the trustees that the Grant in Aid of the National Library of Dublin is not at all sufficient?—I have no doubt that 700*l*. must be wholly inadequate for the purpose.

2031. Have you any idea as to the books that are in the National Library; as to the books that should be there, having regard to Ireland being an industrial country?—No, I do not profess to have any knowledge of the catalogue of the library, and I can only speak in general terms. I have myself occasionally gone into the library

Mr. Daly—continued.

and asked for books on technical subjects and have not found them there, and the librarian, Mr. Lyster, has admitted to me the fact that the library is seriously defective in that direction.

2032. And you agree with the report of the trustees that a larger grant is necessary to make the National Library of Ireland do what it should do towards the Irish people?—Certainly.

2033. I do not know whether you have noticed in the report of the evidence that many of the witnesses have expressed views that museums should be connected with the educational system of the country; is that your opinion?—Certainly; I regard a museum, if it is only to be a place for amusing people, as a sort of exhibition where the people can go and gaze all day during one visit in the year, and that sort of thing; if that were the only object of the museum I would regard it as money absolutely wasted. I consider that if the money is to produce any results to the nation it should be as you state, connected with the educational system of the country.

2034. Just as you mention the word "gazing," might I ask you this; you passed through the Dublin Museum for years on your way to business night and morning, and were you recorded each of these times as a visitor?—I have stated so already.

2035. And you also believe that in wet weather, for people that have not anything to do, the Dublin Museum is a warm place of shelter for them to take refuge in?—I think so; I have no doubt about it.

2036. And from Kildare-street to Grafton-street is there a covered thoroughfare which you can pass under?—Not from Kildare-street; it is from Merrion-square to Kildare-street.

2037. So that it is quite true to say there is a covered thoroughfare?—I have already stated so.

2038. I was asking you with regard to the Dublin Museum being connected with the educational system of the country, and I would like to know how you would make it part of the educational system of the country?—With regard to the educational system of the country, I have already suggested that arrangements might be made for making loans of objects to schools, and as I have already pointed out with regard to science loans, there was only one science loan from South Kensington to an Irish school during the whole year. Therefore, as regards the teaching of science, it is perfectly plain that the Museum of Science and Art at South Kensington is not in connection with the educational system of the country. I think it might be, as far as that is concerned, placed in connection with it by having sets of scientific apparatus which might be available on loan to Irish schools. Then, as I say with regard to Dublin schools, if there were work-rooms, and if there were attached to the museum demonstrators who could give information, I think that a very large number of the Dublin schools would avail themselves of such instruction. That would be another way in which it might be placed in connection with the educational system of the country. It is rather a wide question, but I think that one of the training colleges, the Church of Ireland Training College is next door you may say to the museum, and that would suggest



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Daly*—continued.

suggest to me that the students of the Church of Ireland Training College, and in the other training colleges, the Marlborough Street Training College and the Roman Catholic Training College might be given facility for instruction in the museum, and also that there might be special loans made to these institutions, both of art subjects and of science subjects. Such loans are only made at present, as far as I can gather from the rules of the department, to schools or classes in connection with the department, and I do not think these training colleges are in connection with the department. I think, therefore, that it would be probably necessary that the department should change their rules in order to be able to do this.

2039. You think that Dublin Museum should have the privilege of apparatus to lend to Irish schools, the same as South Kensington lends to English schools?—Yes; but I do not think myself you could ever expect to get the Dublin Museum into touch with the educational system of the country, so long as the Dublin Museum is managed by a board outside the country. I think that the first thing in order to get it into touch with the educational system of the country, is to place it under an Irish board; and I think if that were done, you would very quickly get it into connection with the intermediate system, and with the national system, and with the various other higher institutions for education in the country.

2040. So that you are not satisfied with the control of the Dublin Museum from South Kensington?—No; I do not accuse them of inefficiency; I think the department is a very capable Department, and that there are also very able men at the head of it; but I think it desirable, and better for us, that we should do these things ourselves, even if we made mistakes.

2041. But, taking into account the evidence that Colonel Plunkett gave, that the space at the disposal of the Dublin Museum was inadequate, and considering that he frequently made representations to the management in London, and got no redress, do you not imagine that the Dublin Museum would be better under Irish management?—I think it is probable that it would.

2042. Have you thought as to what hours the Dublin Museum should be open in the evening?—I agree with the director in thinking that the hours should be extended if money is forthcoming. Of course, the director has got to finance the museum, and if the museum was open at later hours of course you would have to have an increase of staff; but regarding it purely as a theoretical question, I think the hours should be extended to 9.30. We find in our technical schools, of which I am the honorary secretary, that the working men do not like remaining on at the schools after half-past nine, and I think, therefore, that as the opening at night is only intended to benefit the working classes, it would fulfil those requirements if it kept open till half-past nine. A working man gets up very early in the morning, and has to be at work at six o'clock, and, therefore, no matter how anxious he is to improve himself, you cannot expect him to be up improving himself after half-past nine.

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Mr. *Daly*—continued.

2043. Your idea is that instead of the museum closing at nine o'clock as now, it should be open until half-past nine?—I think that the working man should have two full hours to benefit by such work, and, as a matter of fact, having regard to the fact that the working man after doing his work has to go home and get his supper and change his clothes, and then has to walk from his home to the museum, you cannot expect the working man to be at the museum much before half-past seven. That is the hour we have fixed for our technical classes, and I think that is the general rule throughout the country, and I think, therefore, that the working man should have two full hours to benefit by the evening attendance at the museum.

2044. And here, again, more money is needed to carry out your views?—Yes; I take it there would have to be an extension of the staff.

2045. Have you taken any interest in industrial exhibitions in Dublin?—Yes, I organised one myself in 1885, an exhibition which was called the Artizans' Exhibition. It was a pretty large exhibition, and the peculiarity of the exhibition was that, although manufacturers were allowed to exhibit, they were obliged when they exhibited to give the name of the artizan, or the workman, who made the exhibit, or if there were several exhibits, the names of the different artizans, and the different portions they were engaged upon; and then when it came to awarding the prizes, the prizes were awarded to the artizans, and not to the manufacturers. It was an exhibition which attracted a good deal of attention at the time, and it was out of that exhibition that this movement in favour of technical education in Ireland grew, because the committee, after the exhibition was closed, formed themselves into a committee for the purpose of establishing a technical school in Ireland.

*Chairman.*

2046. Do you remember the date of it?—It was in 1885.

Mr. *Daly*.

2047. From 1885 up to the present time has there been any exhibition of industries in Dublin?—There has been no general exhibition of industries in Dublin; we had Lady Cadogan's excellent little exhibition last year of textiles, and we had a little exhibition held by the Arts and Crafts Society of art workmanship the year before; those are the only exhibitions I can recall, except, of course, the Agricultural Exhibition at Balls Bridge, held by the Royal Dublin Society in connection with their horse show.

2048. Was the industrial exhibition or textile exhibition that Lady Cadogan originated last year appreciated?—I think it was very much appreciated, and I think it is very likely it will do a considerable amount of good.

2049. And you would like to see Irish exhibitions, from time to time, in connection with Irish industries?—Certainly.

2050. I suppose the exhibition that was held in 1885 was got up by private subscription?—Yes.

2051. The Government did not contribute anything?



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Daly—continued.

anything?—No; the South Kensington Museum gave us an interesting loan, a small loan.

2052. But no financial support?—No; they could not; I think it would be beyond their power to do so. Of course, in foreign states a considerable amount of money comes out of the state funds for holding exhibitions in connection with the departments of agriculture and commerce.

2053. Your idea is that there is larger space wanted in the Dublin Museum?—Yes.

2054. And you are also convinced that there is more money wanted to make the Dublin Museum what it should be for the people of Ireland?—Certainly.

2055. You are also of opinion that the Dublin Museum, to make it a success and to keep it in line with the industries of the country, should be under local control?—Yes.

Lord Balcarras.

2056. I want to ask you some questions; I understand you to say that the total for Ireland on these art services amounts to 25,000l.?—On the museums and galleries, yes.

2057. Do you say that for England the total was 275,000l.?—Yes.

2058. That is to say, that Ireland receives about one-tenth of what England receives?—About one-twelfth of the United Kingdom.

2059. But one-tenth of what England receives?—Yes, 25,658l. as against 274,135l.; it is about one-eleventh.

2060. But you go on the question of population?—I take the question of population.

2061. Do you think that contributions to the Imperial Exchequer should not be considered?—That is a matter for the Financial Relations Committee; it is a matter of opinion.

2062. Do you admit it is a matter of high controversy, and that there is another side to the question?—I will admit that it is a matter of controversy, and I give my opinion.

2063. About the insufficiency of the gallery, I have no doubt the gallery is insufficient. Do you happen to be sufficiently well acquainted with the Science and Art Museums and Galleries in the United Kingdom to tell me whether there is any single gallery that does not claim it is insufficiently staffed and improperly financed?—I daresay that may be so; I cannot say.

2064. You apparently lay great stress upon the control of this Irish Museum. Did I understand you correctly to suggest that the Board of Agriculture and Industry, which the Government has proposed to form in Ireland, would be a proper body to control the Science and Art Museum. Is not that what you said?—I said the Board of Agriculture and Industry, and what I suggested was that in the same way that you have a Sub-Committee of the Education Department in charge of the Science and Art Institution, so in Ireland, you might have a sub-department of the Board of Agriculture and Industry in charge of the operations of the Science and Art Department in Ireland.

2065. You think that Science and Art should be subordinated to Agriculture and Industry?—I do not express an opinion upon the subject, but personally, if you ask my opinion, I would say—

Lord Balcarras—continued.

2066. That is what I am asking; we are on general questions, and I am only asking opinions?—On general questions, if I thought there was any possibility of getting the Government to establish two Boards: one a Board of Agriculture and Industry, and another, an Irish Board to take charge of Technical Education and Science and Art Education and Museums, I should favour the latter proposal in preference. But on the other hand, if there is only a chance of getting one board established for the purpose, I would rather see that board in charge of science and art matters in Ireland with, as I say, a sub-department of science and art, which should be very much independent of it, but still under it, created by the same Act of Parliament. Of course, you understand that in matters of this kind, the parliamentary difficulty is one of the greatest of all difficulties, and the difficulty is to find parliamentary time to introduce two big Irish Bills.

2067. You also suggested committees of elimination; what objects do you propose to eliminate?—Of selection and elimination.

2068. What objects do you propose to eliminate?—I should propose to eliminate objects from time to time, according as they become antiquated. Take, for instance, these manufacturing objects, in connection with manufactures, of which there are a considerable number.

2069. Which, the weaving?—Yes, the weaving, for instance.

2070. Do you think they are obsolete?—Yes; I think that, except as an historical collection, the collection of looms in the museum is decidedly obsolete.

2071. I admit it is small, and I admit they are not working models; but would you ruthlessly put those things up to auction?—I should, yes; I think they are taking a great deal of room.

2072. That is a matter of opinion; there are only about four of them. What other branch of the museum do you suggest requires elimination?—Well, really, I do not profess to be what you call a museum expert. It would be quite impossible for me to go into the details of particular objects. I only speak generally; I am quite sure that a great many of the models of manufactories are quite out of date.

2073. I do not know them; what are they?—I think you will find that Colonel Plunkett stated that there were some models of certain processes. I am not sure that I may not be mixing them up with certain models that are at the Royal College of Science.

2074. I wanted rather to know what, in your opinion, required elimination, because I know all these museums intimately, and it always seemed to me that Dublin is the museum which has had the smallest amount of trash foisted upon it. I really wanted to have your opinion as to what should go?—In speaking on that question of elimination, I do not think I made any special suggestion with regard to elimination in Dublin rather than any other museums; I was rather dealing with the question, I think, on general principles.

Mr. Daly.

2075. And with regard to space?—Yes, and with regard to space.

2076. You



10 May 1898.]

MR. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*.

2076. You made a, to me, very remarkable statement in saying that the keepers of these places are not in touch with the trade, and, previous to that, on the last day we took evidence, you stated that the principal trade of Dublin was brewing. Do you think that the Department of Science and Art is a department which ought to be called upon to give instruction in such technical subjects as brewing?—Well, if they have exhibits in their galleries relating to other processes, I certainly think so.

2077. But surely there is a very wide distinction between brewing, which is a purely commercial industrial operation, and, we would say, wood carving and lace making, which come exclusively under the category of industrial art, for which the department is primarily responsible?—In reply to that I would say that in the galleries of the department you exhibit the processes in connection with gas making, and I see no reason why, if you do that, you should not also exhibit the processes relating to the manufacture of porter or the manufacture of whisky.

2078. Do you not think that, whether gas making is illustrated by the department or not (I think it a great mistake), but whether it is or not, do you think these processes of manufacture, which are quite separate from the questions of industrial art, would be better illustrated in the admirable institutions which are already at work in Dublin?—At the Royal College of Science, do you mean?

2079. No; I mean at the technical instruction classes that are now held in Dublin?—In Capel-street, do you mean?

2080. Yes?—We have no museum there.

2081. No, no museum; but are not the processes better illustrated in a place like that than in a science and art museum?—Then they would be only open to the pupils of the school, and not to other members of the public.

2082. For me, as a member of the public (after all, the museum is for the public), would it be of any great value to me if I went to see the processes of gas making or brewing; for the great public, is not the important thing to see the collection for which Ireland is famous, namely, the collection of the Royal Irish Academy?—Perhaps I was wrong in putting forward the brewing; I am quite prepared to admit that it is not a very suitable subject for exhibition; I only alluded to it because I was asked a question as to the trades (the leading industries), and I put forward brewing, and having seen the fact that other processes, like that of gas making, were illustrated, I thought that possibly something might be done with regard to brewing; but I do not wish at all to press that point. I think you are likely to be quite right on the subject. I think it a small matter, and I think I mentioned a good many other industries which you will admit have more of an art side.

2083. Lace?—Yes; and carriage building and weaving; not only the silk weaving, but the linen and woollen weaving.

2084. My only point is that the Science and Art Department should not trench on commercial education, which is distinct from industrial art; and I daresay in that you will substantially agree

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Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

with me?—This is a science and art department, not only an art department, and this museum is also a science and art museum; you exhibit works of art and you exhibit works of science; that is to say, you have a complete zoological collection, a mineralogical collection, a botanical collection, and so on; and then, as you have objects in which you apply the principles of art in their manufacture, so in the same museum it would appear to me to be quite a logical thing to demonstrate the processes and to show how the principles of science are applied to manufacture; I mean it would seem to me to be in accord with the general policy of the department. Take the question of machinery in motion; machinery in motion is not in any way a question of art, or in any way a question of the application of the principles of art, and yet it is generally admitted; you have that at South Kensington; you have machinery in motion.

*Chairman.*

2085. It is on the science side?—Quite so, but as I have already pointed out, our museum is a museum not only of art but of science.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2086. I do not consider beer-making comes either under science or under art?—It requires a very extensive knowledge of organic chemistry.

2087. You said the keepers are not in touch with the trade. Would you like Mr. Coffee to be in touch with the trade; is he not much better as he is?—I am quite with you that the keepers should not be in touch with the trade. I do not propose that they should be, but I think it very desirable that they should be assisted by persons who are in touch with the trade.

2088. I understood you to say that the keepers were in danger of becoming archaeologists; so far as I am concerned it is my great desire that the Science and Art Department should realise that the keepers should be archaeologists?—I think you misunderstood me; I stated that in reading over the evidence I observed the statement that there was a danger of keepers becoming archaeologists. When I talk of the danger of their becoming archaeologists, I mean there is a tendency to their not having sufficient regard to the value of an object for industrial purposes, and I think that it might be desirable therefore in the selection of objects that they should be assisted by persons who, from their previous training, must have a knowledge of the value of articles for trade purposes or industrial purposes.

2089. I should like to pass from that to a question which interests those who represent some English constituencies very much, and that is the question of the board of visitors in Ireland. It is quite obvious from your evidence that you consider the board of visitors to be an unsatisfactory medium between the officials in Dublin and the officials in London?—I would not go so far as that; I think it is much better to have a board of visitors than to have no board of visitors, but I think they should have much greater powers.

2090. You consider that they should have much greater powers, and I consider that you

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10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

said their position was unsatisfactory. I think we are agreed?—Yes.

2091. They have no power of initiation?—So it has been stated in evidence.

2092. But beyond that what fault have you to find with them?—I do not know that I have any great fault to find with them except, as I say, that I should like to see them cut off from South Kensington altogether and placed under an Irish board.

2093. But something concrete; beyond that you have little to say about it?—Yes, and I think they are an excellent body of men; from what I can gather I think they have given entire satisfaction both to the public and to the department by the way they have done their work.

2094. What some of us think over here is that if we could have an analogous body at South Kensington the public confidence in the department would be very greatly enhanced. Do you imagine these gentlemen do inspire a certain amount of public confidence in Ireland?—I am sure they do.

Mr. *Daly*.

2095. Have you any knowledge of their duties at all in regard to the Dublin Museum?—Nothing more than from having read Colonel Plunkett's evidence before this Committee.

2096. So it is only taking Colonel Plunkett's evidence that you form your opinion?—And I have read evidence given on previous occasions, and I have read their reports from time to time published in the reports of the department, and in that way I have a sort of knowledge of the sort of work they do.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2097. I suppose these gentlemen, although not elected representatives, must infallibly bring to bear on the department a certain control, whether their powers are very carefully defined or not?—Certainly.

2098. They do represent a body of opinion?—Certainly.

2099. And I fancy they are all Irishmen?—I fancy so; I am not aware of there being any Englishmen among them.

2100. I want to pass from that to the last question I desire to ask you about, and that is the question of circulation. Are you aware that at the present moment Wexford and Waterford get loans on circulation from Dublin?—I was not aware of that.

2101. You put forward a proposal that the system of circulation should be infinitely extended. I understood you to say that the objects should be sent to those districts where they are most largely manufactured and reproduced?—Provided that there is a suitable museum for their exhibition.

2102. That is to say, you instance the work of locksmiths, which should go to Birmingham?—Yes.

2103. Carrying your proposal, I will not say to its logical extent but to a reasonable degree, would not that involve sending all the lace out of South Kensington to Dublin or to Nottingham, and all the textiles to the North of Ireland

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

and all enamels or pottery to the Midlands, and thus denude the entire collection of beautiful objects now gathered together for the good of students in one place?—I think there again you have misunderstood me, or I have failed to express myself. All I stated on that matter was that the mere fact of the value of an object should not be a bar to its going to a local museum, or to its being left in a local museum. That was my view, and Mr. Daly, when asking me a question, pointed out that certain witnesses who were examined before the Select Committee had stated their opinion that objects of extreme value should not go out of London, and he asked me if I held that opinion, and I said: No, my view was that the mere fact of an object being an object of great value should not prevent its going out of London, but I had not the least intention of suggesting that all the locksmiths' work was to go to Birmingham and all the lace to Coventry, and so on; it was simply that the value of the object should not be a bar to its going out of London.

2104. That is to say, you have no fear of the travelling?—I have no fear of their being kept safely in proper custody.

2105. Do you mind St. Patrick's bell being sent all about Ireland?—That is a different matter; there is sentiment there.

2106. It belongs to the North of Ireland and not to Dublin. Would you mind its being sent touring about Ulster?—No, I was not talking about touring at all; I am talking about being left in the place if necessary.

Chairman.

2107. Permanently?—Permanently.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2108. It is a difference of opinion as to the safety of sending about priceless and irreplaceable objects?—Yes.

2109. You contemplate the movement of these objects with equanimity?—Yes, I live out of London myself, and I do not see why London should have all the gems.

2110. May I say, as a resident of England, that I do not see why Ireland should have all the gems?—No, and we have not got all the gems.

Dr. *Farquharson*.

2111. Did I understand you to say that if you had the local control you desire you thought you would get better terms out of the English Government, that you would get larger subventions?—I thought it probable.

2112. Why should you think that?—I gave my reason, I think, that the votes of the other Irish Educational Boards who managed Irish educational affairs from Ireland continued to increase steadily, whereas the amount of money expended in Ireland by the Science and Art Department had not been extending, but had remained practically stationary. I thought that was the reason, that it was managed from London and not from Dublin.

2113. There would be other advantages besides educational advantages in having local control?—I think so; I think that the museum would be more likely to be in touch with our local industries if it was controlled locally.

2114. And



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

2114. And local interest would be increased?—Yes, I think our local bodies and our working men would take a greater interest in it if it was managed locally.

2115. Do you think if it was managed locally there would be a chance of getting contributions from people in Ireland or elsewhere?—I should say more chance than at present, but I would not like to express an opinion on that subject.

2116. Now Lord Balcarres asked you a question just now about the value of the exhibits here; do you not think there would be some danger in the transit of objects of that artistic distinction from one place to another; you would admit that was an essential element?—Certainly; I am quite prepared to admit it.

2117. Do you think that works of that very high artistic value have a very direct educational value?—It would only be if they had any very great educational value that I should covet them: if they were merely curios I should not covet them at all, and I should be very happy to leave them at South Kensington.

2118. If it was a very fine piece of sculpture, or a painting, or a piece of lace, would there not be equal educational value in a good reproduction, beyond the sentiment of originality?—I think there is always a difference from the artistic point of view between a reproduction and an original work. It might make the whole difference.

2119. But from the technical point of view; you take the illustration of a very fine lock, that could, be imitated, no doubt, by a skilled workman sufficiently well?—To begin with, as a reproduction, I think it would have no interest, people would not look at it; but if it was an original work, if it was the original thing, a large number of people would go and look at it, and therefore a large number of people would benefit by its exhibition.

Lord Balcarres.

2120. Are you sure people would find out the difference?—I should think in all probability they would.

2121. How?—Because they would find out by the label.

2122. Apart from the label would they find it out?—If there was an extremely valuable work of industrial art sent over to the museum in Dublin, and if that fact was notified to the public, I have not the least doubt that the public would very soon get to know about it, and come to see it.

Dr. Farquharson.

2123. Is it not the case that the very best experts have been deceived over and over again on such questions as medals and pictures and engravings?—Yes.

2124. Even the very question of this great gate we hammered at day after day here; is not that a conspicuous instance of the way in which experts have been deceived by modern work imitating ancient work?—Yes, that is quite true, and no doubt, from many points of view, a reproduction might have, in many instances, I will not say in all, as great value for educational purposes; but, on the other hand, it

0.5—10.

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

would not attract as much interest. I have not the least doubt about that.

2125. Would not a reproduction have special educational value, showing the skill of modern workmen, and how a very fine thing might be imitated by modern workmen?—Certainly, and I should be very glad to have reproductions.

2126. Would not the interest you describe inherent to a very fine original, rather be of interest to the *dilettante* onlooker, and perhaps the loafer; would it attract the people to come there to learn something specifically in their branch of industry?—I think it would; I think the original work would very likely excite enthusiasm. I know myself if I am looking at a plaster cast of a statue, it does not affect me at all in the same way that the statue itself does, and I think if I am looking at an original piece of statuary by a great artist, a great sculptor, I am at the time a little bit carried beyond myself, really by the fact that I am looking at such a work, and I think it makes a much greater impression on my mind in consequence.

Lord Balcarres.

2127. Are you aware that in the Great Gallery at Florence hundreds of tourists a day go into enthusiastic delights over the famous Virgil?—No, I was not aware of that.

2128. Are you aware that the famous Virgil there exhibited which makes them exult and joy so much is a *fac simile*, and that the real Virgil is underneath?—I daresay; but I do not think you should be absolutely regardless of sentiment or enthusiasm; particularly in art, I think enthusiasm is of very great importance.

2129. It only illustrates the value of good *fac similes*, does it not?—What you are saying does, certainly.

Dr. Farquharson.

2130. You are in favour of some illustrations of technical industries in museums devoted to science and art?—Yes; the department have travelled in that direction to a certain extent, and having travelled in that direction I should like to see them travel a little further in that direction.

2131. You have got those industries that have been developed in other institutions, but would you consider that it would stimulate the enthusiasm of the students in those other institutions if they could go to a central museum and find a collection of things bearing on their special industry. I mean that having been trained, or in process of their training, at the technical schools or other institutions, would it not be advantageous to them to come to the great central museum and find a collection of things there bearing on their work that they have been carrying on outside?—Yes.

2132. You think that would be an advantage?—I think so; and, furthermore, there might be a great many people who are not limiting themselves to a particular department, and who are not themselves attending any technical school, but who, if there were such objects in the museum, and particularly if those objects were demonstrated upon by the officers of the museum, would benefit by their exhibition in museums.

2133. You



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

2133. You have been pleading, and I daresay very properly, in favour of an increased grant for Ireland; but I suppose your opponents might say you had less claim because there is so little manufacture in Ireland. England is a great manufacturing country, and so is Scotland, but in Ireland you have very few manufactures. Your opponents might say that was a reason why you should not have so large a grant. I do not take that line myself, but I raise it for the sake of argument to hear your view on that?—In some respects, the more backward we are the more encouragement we require.

2134. You think if you got more scope for development in that direction you would get a development of your manufacturing industries in the future?—I think that it would tend in that direction. I am not a man who goes in for quack cures, and I do not imagine that a good museum will cure every Irish ill, but I think it would have a tendency in that direction.

2135. Ireland has suffered of course from the neglect of her manufactures in the past?—Certainly, and I think Ireland has suffered, as Mr. Balfour has stated in the House of Commons, by the policy of England towards Ireland during the last century, and therefore I think that England owes it to Ireland to be exceedingly generous to her in every matter relating to manufacture, and to do everything she can to encourage her manufactures.

2136. As some return for the mistakes of the past?—I think so, and I think that England shows every desire at the present time to do it.

Chairman.

2137. As regards the space for enlargement of the museum in Dublin, have you sufficient space round the museum for enlargement?—There is a sufficient amount of land that could be acquired, otherwise I have no doubt that the Departmental Committee who are inquiring into the question of the site for the new College of Science would not have selected that spot.

2138. Are you of opinion that there should always be a real space round the museum to secure a certain amount of quiet and light?—Yes, certainly.

2139. I presume that if there were a difficulty in securing a suitable site in the immediate proximity, you would rather have the collection scattered than not have a collection of sufficient size at all?—Certainly.

2140. Do you attach importance to historical sequence in scientific objects; your evidence rather pointed to an opinion on your part that machines and the like which were not now in use and which had become obsolete ought to be withdrawn; are we to take that as your opinion?—My opinion would be this: that if there is only a limited amount of space available for the exhibition of such objects, it is more desirable that the best objects should be exhibited rather than mere historical objects. If there was adequate space for exhibition I should like to see the historical method adapted as well, but it is perfectly obvious from what the director of the museum has expressed, that there is not room both for an historical collection of such objects

Chairman—continued.

and also for a selection which would be useful at the present time.

2141. Do you agree with what has been stated by previous witnesses that there is value in historical sequence on many grounds?—Certainly.

2142. As regards the committees which you suggest, I think you made allusion to guilds; would you wish these committees to include representatives of chambers of commerce and the like?—I think it would be very desirable.

2143. That would bring them in touch with the industrial line?—Yes, that was my object; in many places there are no guilds. Of course in London there are guilds, but in the other big English cities where you have museums you have no guilds.

2144. But your wish would be that if there were such committees, the industrial element, the manufacturing element and the like, should be represented?—Yes.

2145. What is your opinion as regards Dublin on the point of lectures on Sunday, would they be in accord with the public sentiment in Dublin?—I think they would not.

2146. I believe the National Library is close to the schools?—It is. When you say the schools you mean the Metropolitan Drawing School? I do not know exactly what schools you mean.

2147. Perhaps I ought to say the museum?—Yes, it is close to the museum; it is just on the opposite side of the courtyard.

2148. Then as regards the position, it is convenient?—Very convenient.

2149. Colonel Plunkett said in Question and Answer 4335 that there was only a small special Technical Art Library attached to the museum, and that that was only used by the officers in the museum; do you regard that as a satisfactory state of things?—I do not.

2150. And you desire to have it remedied?—Yes.

2151. Has it occurred to you that if you make the management of the Dublin Museum exclusively Irish, you would not have contact with the wider industries of Great Britain, and that thereby you might lose as well as gain?—I see no reason why, even if we were cut off from South Kensington, South Kensington should not make loans to Dublin in the same way as it makes loans to the Scotch Museum, or to the Birmingham Museum, or Manchester Museum, or Liverpool Museum, and I see no reason therefore why there should not be interchange between the museums as before.

2152. You probably agree with me that it is a very important thing for Ireland that if there was an industrial museum you should see the newest objects which the art and industry of Great Britain is constantly supplying?—Yes, and I think if there was such an arrangement for the management of the Dublin Museum they should continue to do as the present Director, Colonel Plunkett, tells us he does, that they should be in constant communication with the directors here, so as to be provided with these valuable reproductions so as to keep them *au courant* with what is going on over here. Of course, if they paid for them out of their vote I do not see that



10 May 1898.]

Mr. GRAVES.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

that there could be any objection to their being supplied.

2153. You would not deprecate the use of reproductions, I presume?—No, I would not; I am in favour of reproductions very much.

2154. But like others, you prefer the original when it can be obtained?—Yes.

*Mr. Daly.*

2155. When Lord Balcarres asked you with regard to the formation of a board, if a Board of Agriculture were established in Ireland, I think you stated you would rather see the Dublin Museum under the management of the Irish Board of Agriculture and Industry, than see it as at present controlled from South Kensington?—Yes.

2156. You are still of that opinion?—I am.

2157. The Chairman asked you, would the Dublin Museum suffer supposing it came under Irish control and got away from South Kensington; do you think that the Dublin Museum would in any way suffer if cut off from the control of South Kensington?—I think that

*Mr. Daly*—continued.

it might suffer if there was not a cordial relationship between the two museums in the way I have suggested. If we were not to keep ourselves in relation to South Kensington in the way I have suggested we should certainly suffer.

2158. But considering the past connections of the Dublin Museum with South Kensington, do you think that Dublin would not be better under the management of an Irish board?—I think it would.

2159. With regard to the National Library, is there any room attached to the Dublin Museum where art students can study?—As a matter of fact the art school is alongside of the museum, and therefore I do not think there is any occasion for it.

2160. You have told the Committee you are under the impression that the grant is not at all sufficient with regard to the National Library?—I agree with the recommendations of the trustees and think it wholly inadequate.

2161. And you also imagine that the buildings of the Dublin Museum should be extended?—Yes.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S. (late R.E.), called in; and Examined.

*Chairman.*

2162. WHAT is your opinion as to the experience of having lectures on Sundays in the Dublin Museum with regard to public sentiment regarding the observance of the Sabbath?—I do not know that I am a very good judge, because I keep entirely clear of all those controversial things. I should be most decidedly in favour of it myself, but I am not at all sure it would not raise opposition; I should like to inquire very carefully about that.

2163. Your feeling would be, prior to inquiry, that the Dublin mind would be very much divided on the subject?—Very much divided.

2164. If the public mind is divided, would it be expedient to open on the Sunday for the purpose of lectures?—I think it would be better to begin more gradually and not to introduce it at present at all events.

2165. I am desired, as Chairman of the Committee, to ask you with reference to Professor Johnstone, the botanist; I believe he is a distinguished professor and a man of great note; what is his present salary?—Professor Johnstone is a past time professor of the Royal College of Science, and he is paid 200*l.* a year at the Royal College of Science for giving certain lectures, and superintending the laboratory and practical botanical work in the College of Science. That takes him a part of each week. In addition to that he is paid 100*l.* per annum for giving 70 days of work.

2166. And that makes a total salary of 300*l.*?—Yes, that comes out of another vote; he is paid 100*l.* a year out of the Museum Vote for giving 70 days' work, arranging and taking charge of the botanical and economic botany collections in the museum. He is an exceedingly useful officer, very energetic, a very great scientific botanist, and a remarkably practical man; he is one of the most eminently practical men 0.5—10.

*Chairman*—continued.

we have, I think I may say, in the whole department in the United Kingdom; he not only conducts the botanical part in the most scientific spirit, but he also takes it up in the agricultural point of view. Unintentionally Mr. Graves very much misled the Committee, I think, in stating we did not attend to agriculture, because it is one of our very strong points in the museum. Professor Johnstone was chosen as president of the conference and exhibition of the tercentenary of the potato in Ireland. His paper on it, which I have here, is a very remarkable one; his system of exhibits, and his work in the museum in connection with the potato and potato disease has been quite a remarkable work, acknowledged by all who are any authorities on the subject in Ireland. His illustrations of the osier industry in Ireland, the proper willows to grow in different parts of the country, the proper willows for various kinds of manufacture and the kinds of baskets and other articles for which all these various willows and osiers are suitable are, I believe, the finest in the kingdom. I went down to look at the Kew collection, and I think I must say ours at Dublin is far better, far more complete, although on the same scale. The lecture Professor Johnstone gave before the Irish Industrial League, which was reprinted in the "Farmers' Gazette," the great Irish agricultural paper, in the "Farming World" and in the "Irish Homestead," and also in a special edition of the same, have been recognised as the best papers on the subject. As regards the flax industry, which is not only a manufacture in Ireland but a great agricultural question, his collection is very valuable indeed. His lectures on the subject in the museum have been attended by a large number; he has been requested by a body of 120 employes in a factory to repeat his lectures, on plant fibres, because it was so practically useful.

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2167. I



10 May 1898.]

Lieut.-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

*Mr. Daly.*

2167. Is it the fact that the flax industry in Ireland has become a total failure?—It is declining.

2168. Are you aware that the falling off in the cost of produce of flax in the last 15 years is 120,000*l.* in Ireland?—I do not know the figures, but I know it is coming down rapidly, and that is why I was saying what I am saying. Professor Johnstone's exhibits of flax are, I think, far more valuable than mere collections of machinery; he has samples of the flax plants and seeds, and so on, and the fibre as it is obtained; the flax-straw itself, and the flax-straw rotted; he has specimens from all the different countries where it is grown, and I think he has everything which can show the farmer why it is that Irish flax fibre can only fetch from 28*l.* to 30*l.* a ton, while the best Belgian will fetch 250*l.* a ton. Of course he has specimens of the linen and of goods made from the flax, the seeds, the oil, the oil cake, and everything of that sort. I might go on about the kelp industry, on which he is an authority. His paper, which I have here, on the kelp industry, which was prepared at the request of the Congested Districts Board, which is both a botanical and a practical paper, is a remarkable one, and I do not think there is a better authority in Ireland on the subject. I am not an authority myself on these industries, either on kelp or flax, but I put it that nothing could be more practical or more useful than what we are doing in our Economic Botany Department, whether for the flax, the kelp, or the potato, and so on, so far as the museum can do it.

*Chairman.*

2169. I wish for a moment to direct your attention to Professor Johnstone, how far his present salary is equal to what he ought to receive?—He does not get above half what he ought to receive; whereas, as I have said, he is only bound to give 70 days in the year to this museum, he gives a great deal over double that, he gives over 150, in fact, all the time he can spare from the college. The last witness referred to the need for personal guides. Professor Johnstone is always there as a personal guide, he is consulted by letter and personally by a very large number of people on all these subjects, very largely indeed. Last week the lecturer at the Glasnevin Model Farm said he got agricultural information in that herbarium he could not get anywhere else. The students who attend that class at the model farm come there and use the herbarium. A man found truffles in Ireland a short time ago. He came up to Dublin and saw Professor Johnstone, who put him in touch with those who gave him the proper instruction as to how to distinguish different kinds of them, and so on. I believe we have the finest collection of models of root crops and farm crops generally in that museum that there is in any economic botanical museum. Seed merchants and dealers of all sorts are constantly applying for information there, and they get the information. Students use that herbarium in very large numbers. They are allowed to work in the inner room with the microscope if they wish it, and on a Tuesday evening, when that part of the museum is open, they can always get information from Professor

*Chairman—continued.*

Johnstone himself. No system of personal guides, such as their being there once in a day to walk round with people, would be anything like the value of our present system in connection with a thing of that sort. The secretaries of the Royal University have a notice put in the University Hall, calling attention to the facilities of consulting those botanical collections. The pharmaceutical students in Dublin come in great numbers and use it. One who came out at the top of the examination the other day said it was due to the help he got from those collections. A teacher in training gave a model object lesson on the flax plant illustrated by specimens which he had borrowed from the collection. It is the most important branch of the museum, and particularly arranged so as to suit the agricultural and industrial population.

2170. Is that all under the direction of Professor Johnstone?—It is all under Professor Johnstone, and he is not paid for half the time he gives.

2171. Do you consider he ought to have an extra 100*l.*, or the like, for arranging and exhibiting the collections of fossil plants transferred from the palæontological department?—The fossil plants are only one small part of the botanical collection; to a botanist in the course of his study it is necessary to have the fossil plants in the same collection with the existing species for scientific investigation, and it is not a separate part of the charge in any way.

2172. What increased salary should you consider it just to give him, having regard to the scale of salaries now prevailing?—He ought to have from about 500*l.* to 600*l.* a year for giving his whole time to the work of the college and the museum.

2173. What has he now; what is his present salary?—£. 300.

2174. Would you have that increase at once or a lower increase now and a rise year by year?—I should have to consider exactly what the other professors of the College of Science are getting, not to put him on an exceptional footing.

2175. Speaking, as far as you can at the moment, you abide by the answer you have given?—Yes, I say from 500*l.* to 600*l.* a year; that would be a very moderate salary to a man doing such useful work.

2176. I think, as we have had this evidence from the preceding witness, it is right that I should ask you whether you desire to make any statement of fact with reference to the evidence we have just received?—Yes; I entirely agree with the evidence of Mr. Arnold Graves as to the want of lecture-rooms, laboratories and class-rooms for science teaching being brought near to the museum. We have been talking of that for years, and we have not been able to get it from the Treasury. The College of Science ought to be brought into the immediate neighbourhood of the museum, so that each would assist the other.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2177. Are you not afraid of fumes?—No, we need not bring the chemical laboratory near the art museum; of course, we would take care of that.

2178. You



10 May 1898.]

Lieut.-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman.*

2178. You could keep them at a respectful distance?—One hundred yards of open air between the student's laboratory and the museum, I take it, would be quite enough to prevent danger, but with a building of such an extent there would be no difficulty in placing the chemical laboratory at a safe distance.

*Mr. Daly.*

2179. You agree with Mr. Graves that the laboratories and the lecture-rooms should be in connection with the museum?—That is to say, the Royal College of Science, which must be the building for the lecture-rooms, class-rooms, and so on, ought to be near at hand; they are on an entirely inadequate scale; they ought to be on a proper and adequate scale to thoroughly develop the science teaching, and ought to be brought near to the museum.

2180. Do you agree with Mr. Graves that there is sufficient building ground adjacent to the Dublin Museum at present that would accommodate those new buildings?—Not vacant; it would have to be purchased and cleared.

2181. But still there is ground if the Treasury would only advance the money to purchase the land?—Yes, and that has been put forward by the department year after year. I should also like to mention that any collection of machinery, factory models, and so on, being arranged between the college and museum, just like the collections of geology, mineralogy, and other things, would then be useful for both. At times they would be useful for the college professors to give their lectures, and at all other times they would be open to the public. It would be economical and advisable in every way, and I entirely agree with Mr. Graves, if I am not going outside the scope of this inquiry, that it would tend greatly to make education in Ireland more practical, and less purely bookish. I should like to point out that Mr. Graves when he stated that the collections of botany, zoology, and so on, are not used by teachers or professors for lectures, and so on, was not quite aware of the facts. The professors of the College of Science do use those; I attended a couple of lectures myself when I had time, and they had constantly to bring their students and lecture to them in the museum, although at great inconvenience and at great waste of time, owing to the distance. As regards the question of personal guides, I think our method is preferable to that which Mr. Graves seems to suggest. I think there are three ways in which it can be done. There might be the very expensive plan, and therefore quite unattainable, of having a large number of persons ready to act as personal guides, so that every half-dozen or dozen persons who came into the museum could be taken and shown things. That I look on as quite impracticable, as in holiday times you would want scores of such guides.

2182. Might I remind the witness that what Mr. Graves stated was that if it were known that at certain times of the day a guide made a round of the museum, that would be practically possible?—I was just going to mention that. There is the other plan that was mentioned by Mr. Graves, that at a stated hour, daily, a notice might be put up that an officer of the

0.5—10.

*Mr. Daly—continued.*

museum will conduct persons round certain collections, or a certain part of the collections. That, from my own experience, although I quite appreciate Mr. Graves' object in bringing it forward is in excellent spirit and tending to help us, would be very objectionable.

*Chairman.*

2183. Why?—Because of the noise of the feet following; that is what we all notice when we go round a place like Westminster Abbey; the crowd following and the footsteps following on make it absolutely annoying, so that a man who has any sensitiveness cannot speak and cannot explain, and the greater part of his audience cannot hear.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2184. Does not that noise predicate that enjoyment is produced as well as education of the public?—No, they do not hear. You misunderstand me, I do not mean applause, I mean the following: he begins speaking with a dozen persons round him and they hear that and flock in from all sides, and go on flocking while he is talking. Those not there at the first sentence miss the whole spirit of what he is saying; they do not follow it and the noise of their footsteps coming up prevents the others hearing. I think our plan very much better. I am speaking from much experience of what I have heard done in other museums.

*Chairman.*

2185. You have not quite explained what your plan is?—Our plan is this, that I choose a time when the museum, or that part of the museum, is closed to the public, and I say that on a certain evening at a certain hour there will be a demonstration, in that room, to anybody who will apply for a ticket at the office during, say, a week beforehand. Thirty or 40, or 50, or 60 persons apply, and according to the size of the room and the size of the cases we decide how many tickets may be given, and those persons having come in and the door being shut, if the rest of the museum is open, after they are all in and silent, the lecturer can speak, and naturally a lecture given under those circumstances is ten times as valuable as that given when persons are flocking gradually up as they come in.

2186. What number have you coming to those lectures?—I mentioned it last year when giving my evidence.

*Mr. Daly.*

2187. Would it only be on the subjects exhibited in this particular room that those visitors would have the opportunity of hearing the lecture?—Of course each lecture is on one subject. We make it three-quarters of an hour; sometimes it lasts one hour or one hour and a quarter, but that is on one particular group of objects.

*Chairman.*

2188. You divide the museum, as it were, into sections for the purpose?—Yes.

2189. Will you proceed with what you wish to state in the way of fact, in comment on the preceding witness's evidence?—I should like to say that, although no doubt a large number of

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10 May 1898.]

Lieut-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

the people who visit our museum, merely to come to walk through without noticing or learning anything in particular, our proportion is, as far as I observe, certainly not larger than that in the British Museum or the South Kensington Museum or many others. I think we have as large a number of real learners in Dublin as in any other museum. I think Mr. Graves was rather mistaken when he said a large number of people only used it as a short cut from Merrion-square to Kildare-street. The walk through the museum is about 70 paces longer than walking outside the museum, and under the archway past Leinster House, and it takes about three minutes to go through the museum, whereas it takes only two and a quarter minutes outside, and, I believe, therefore, most people are practical enough not to go through the museum. If they do go through, it is because it is raining outside, and they can get through dry.

*Mr. Daly.*

2190. Have you heard Mr. Graves state that he used the museum as a short cut for years?—Yes, twice a day.

2191. Did you also hear him say that he noticed parties going into the turnstile before him, and going out before him on the opposite side?—Yes.

2192. Have you any definite cause to differ from him?—I think he exaggerated there. I asked my chief clerk, who has been for 30 years there, how many he thought did that, and he said six or seven in a week. He is very much about in the museum, far more than Mr. Graves, and a thousand times more than I have been myself, but I think he understated it. I think it very likely there might be 20 or 30, but it is certainly a very small number, and it is far more than compensated for by the number of persons who come in through the office and who are not registered at the turnstile, because every one of those come up to ask me, or one of the keepers, something definite, and go into the museum as a learner. Therefore I think that should be neglected together. Even if it were a fact, if people do walk through, using it as a short cut, I should not try to stop them, because I hope that even those people passing through may learn something of what we have there, and even if they are too stupid to learn it themselves they may mention it to their friends.

*Lord Balcarres.*

2193. You do not object to it?—No. I do not think it a fact; but if it were I do not object to it.

2194. You are aware that we have already got it in evidence, not before this Committee, but in a Parliamentary paper, that in connection with the Post Office in Exhibition-road, the telegraph boys, and so forth, invariably use on free days the entrance at the place marked B.; they go along the southern galleries and emerge in the Imperial Institute-road at the point marked B. there; are you aware of that?—I do not hear it, but I think it a very good thing for the telegraph boys; they may develop a little taste in a useful direction. Mr. Graves said he did not think the working classes used it much; I fancy that is owing to his only passing through at ten in the

*Lord Balcarres—continued.*

morning and four in the afternoon. If he noticed it at such times as the working classes do come he would see that there is a very much larger proportion than at South Kensington or at most museums. I cannot say whether firms of employers tell their men to go and visit the museum, but I know the employers get tickets for them to come to the museum demonstrations, and they would hardly do that unless they knew something about them. When he mentioned that our industrial collections were very inadequate, that is what I have stated myself, and I entirely agree with him; but I think he did not quite appreciate that it is not the machinery and models of factories and so on that directly foster the industrial. For instance, although many of our models of factories are very old, perhaps some few useless. We happen to have a model of a gas factory which is one of the finest in the world, a duplicate of the one in South Kensington, absolutely new and up to date, and only wants a large number of labels to be the finest possible. I do not believe, myself, that it will do anything for improving the manufacture of gas in Dublin or in any city of Ireland to have that beautiful model there. What really will do good will be if a larger number of students go through a full course of chemistry in the College of Science, and if we had a larger number of good chemists in the country we would be more likely to have improvement in our gas manufacture. I look upon these things as useful for the general education, especially for awakening intelligence in boys—most useful—and I have always been a strong advocate for having these little trade processes and industrial exhibits, as some people call them, scattered all over the country, within reach of boys, in technical schools in every county in Ireland; but in the National Museum, although it is very well to have them, I do not look on them as, by any means, the most useful part of it. As I said with regard to agriculture, there is an exhibition of agricultural implements of all kinds twice a year at the Royal Dublin Society show, and the agriculturalists of Ireland, in large numbers, see those, and the fact of our having one winnowing machine, one harrow, one plough, and one mowing machine, and so on, in the long gallery adjoining the college, would really do very little; it would do nothing for agriculture compared to what our botanical department is doing; and dealing with agriculture, I should like to mention what is in a most conspicuous part of the museum, one of the most. That is the collection of injurious insects; cases showing the various plants, vegetables, and so on, with the insects, which are labelled in the most obvious manner, almost as a book, showing the injurious insects, their life history, the means of destroying them, and their natural enemies, and so on. I am afraid I am very ignorant of agriculture myself, but anybody who takes any interest in those things would find the most useful collection there possible. I find that about 500 persons every year consult the officers in charge of the zoological department of the museum. In the same way, I should not trouble the Committee so long, but Mr. Graves made much of these industrial exhibits, as regards furniture, for



10 May 1898.]

Lieut.-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

for instance, to put a lathe and a cabinet maker's bench and his tools, and the frame of a chair, showing the mortices and tenons, would not do anything whatever for the furniture industry of Dublin, not the slightest. It would be a very useful thing to show in schools all over the country for boys gaining general intelligence, but it would be absolutely useless as regards the furniture industry. If a cabinet maker came up he would say, "I do not want to see anything of that sort of thing, but I want to see the fine specimens of furniture of different ages, of different countries, and different makes grouped practically all together." That is what we are trying to do, and that is what I look on as a real industrial exhibit likely to benefit the industry.

*Chairman.*

2195. You have had a great furniture industry in Ireland, I believe?—It is a very great industry.

2196. You think you should revive it?—Yes; and we have good makers of furniture now. I know we have men in Dublin who could make as good furniture as ever was made. What really wants cultivating is the public taste. First rate furniture can be made and is made in Dublin, but as long as people prefer cheap inferior things sent out wholesale by makers in large factories, it is hopeless for the cabinet maker to try and improve his trade. It is the buyer who is more at fault than the seller. The same with china; if we showed a potter's wheel, and the throwing of the clay, and so on, the men from Lambeth or from Belleek would say "That is no use to us. We know all about these things." Our object is to collect the china and porcelain of every country of the world; the best possible specimens, and to show them there that they may examine different patterns, and the different glazes, and so on, and get hints for improving their own manufacture. I am rather detaining the Committee, but I thought the last witness quite unintentionally absolutely misunderstood what were our industrial exhibits. He mentioned that we had a great deal of gold plate shown there, and very little silver plate, whereas silver work is the real industry in Ireland. The old silver plate, towards the end of the last century, made in Ireland, was, in my opinion, about the finest in the world, and superior to the best ancient plate. Everybody will acknowledge that it is very fine indeed, but a silversmith may frequently get as good hints out of a gold article as he will from a silver one. We have some things in South Kensington Museum in which you may see the same pattern in both silver and gold. I refer to the pair of bowls reproduced by Hemming in 1776. The earlier ones made in 1746 were gilt, and they look like gold, and the later ones, 30 years later, are silver and not gold, and there is the same pattern in the two. The gold one would have given just as good hints to the silversmiths as the silver one. I quite agree with the last witness that our silversmiths' work does want encouraging, and again I may say it is the buyer who wants encouraging much more than the maker. We had only two cases of silver  
0.5—10.

*Chairman*—continued.

and now we have three, and within a few weeks we should have four large cases. As regards stone carving we have a great quantity of carving or casts. As regards wood carving we have a very considerable collection. I do not like to say too much about any of the collections, because I feel they are all not what they want to be, but we have a good collection of wood carving, and to add to it some of the Swiss toy things in the shape of little Swiss chalets, a milkmaid with a pail on her shoulder, or a cow walking in front of a cottage, would certainly not be an advantage. We have one which I hope soon to get out of sight altogether, but we have such things as the Swiss people are now collecting for their Zurich Museum, fine old carvings; they being practical people know what is good. We have a similar collection to some extent, and a very good one. Of course, as regards special exhibitions, that is a question of space and money. As regards Mr. Graves' suggestion as to the committees connected with industries, I think he is mistaken in considering they would help in any way; they would absolutely restrict us in getting opinions. If a committee were formed in Dublin of a dozen gentlemen connected with various industries, the one connected with any one particular industry would naturally, if he took any interest at all and came to the meetings, take an interest in his own particular line, and it would be very difficult for the director to get, as he can now, the opinions of many persons in Ireland and in England and on the continent which are really far more valuable.

*Mr. Daly.*

2197. Might I remind the witness that what Mr. Graves stated was that he would suggest various committees connected with the various industries of the country?—On Friday Mr. Graves suggested one committee, as I took the words down; to-day I am aware he suggested several committees.

2198. Would you disagree with Mr. Graves?—I entirely disagree. It is impossible for the director to say where he gets all his opinions from, and unless he is using the brains of a great many people he is utterly unfit for his post.

2199. Might I ask you, as being the Director of the Dublin Museum, what knowledge have you of the industry and the growth of flax and linen weaving; that is a large industry in the North of Ireland?—I have none whatever of that.

2200. Do you think that a number of men connected with that trade in the North of Ireland would not be of use to you in getting machinery that would be suitable to help the working man with regard to such subjects?—I do not think they would be any use at all; I would prefer Professor Johnstone's opinion as to the flax industry to anything suggested in that way.

2201. What position did Professor Johnstone occupy before he got his present position in the Dublin Museum?—He has been a professor of botany for a good many years, and before that he was a teacher of botany; he was at Kew once, I believe.

P P

2202. Although



10 May 1898.]

Lieut.-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

*Mr. Daly—continued.*

2202. Although you have such a high opinion of Professor Johnstone's advice with regard to the flax industry in Ireland, the flax industry has almost entirely disappeared from the country—So I hear; I may mention that this flax exhibit has not been a year in the museum; all these inquiries on this subject are entirely new.

2203. I do not want to go into the evidence; might I ask you this: are you aware that Mr. Balfour, a large linen manufacturer from Lisburn, gave a lecture recently in the North of Ireland, when he introduced Holland experts on the growth of flax in Ireland, and in those districts the growth of flax has improved?—That is exactly what I should expect.

2204. And if that is the case, how is it that under your control and Professor Johnstone's the growth of flax has decreased all over Ireland?—I have had no control over the growth of flax in Ireland, and, as I have said, Professor Johnstone has only got his exhibit within the last year.

2205. You would get the information from a committee which understood the growth of flax in Ireland, if they were to confer with you?—I say that no man understands the growth of flax in Ireland better than Professor Johnstone, with the advice that he has got; if he were not such an authority, these various buyers would not ask him about it.

*Chairman.*

2206. Are there any other points with reference to the last witness's evidence?—I think it very likely that such committees would in a short time have very little effect; they would leave these things to experts; but, if they had any, I think it would be a bad and hampering effect. Although I do not know anything of flax growth or linen manufacture, I do not believe that bringing in a few specimens of machinery, such as are used in the linen manufactory, would have the slightest effect on the industry of the country. All linen manufacturers know perfectly well what machinery they want to use; it is the growth of flax that is the difficulty. I think the present system of getting an annual report from visitors is a very much better one.

*Mr. Daly.*

2207. The South Kensington has not acted on your reports?—Oh, yes; we have got many things we recommended, not everything. I think it quite a mistake to think that any committee could assist in weeding out things that are not wanted; I think in those things it is far better to ascertain from those who are special experts in that particular line. For instance, if we have a machinery gallery, which we ought to have, between the College of Science and the museum, the proper experts as to the machinery and as to the models of factories should be as at South Kensington, the professors of those particular lines; that is to say, of mechanical engineering and chemistry and manufactures in the College of Science; they will always know; they are men obliged to keep themselves in touch with the latest specimens of machinery

*Mr. Daly—continued.*

all over the world, and the latest processes of manufacture, and they are the proper people to go to for advice as to what should be, and should not be, and what is useful, and is not useful in the machinery and factory gallery. As something was said about brewing, I should like to point out that the model of a brewery with all its apparatus put up there would not be the slightest use to a single brewer in Dublin; they know perfectly well what apparatus to use. What we do want is such a proper college of science that a man who wished to be a brewery chemist should be able to get there a proper course of education, instead of having to go, as at present, to Copenhagen to get it. I think many people who have not had a scientific education or a technical education, or any connection with scientific or technical work, make a mistake in thinking that models of machinery and factories are of very great use, and they do not attach sufficient importance to the scientific side of the education or to the collections of finished objects, which are what the manufacturer wants to see. It was pointed out as a matter of importance that when building a new college of science the ground must not all be taken up which may hereafter be wanted for the museum, and that, therefore, ample space must be secured by the Government, that the museum may not suffer hereafter; and with that statement of the witness I entirely agree. I think that a local board, which must in the end cut us off from the great advantages we get here in South Kensington, would be unfortunate. I think that the separation would be a mistake, although, no doubt, we should do our best under it. I think we have rather a warning on the result of the education carried on by boards in Ireland, which we may say has fallen very much behind, especially as regards education in science and art; it has fallen behind, and is falling more and more behind other countries, and I should be very sorry to see us relegated to anything of the same sort. There would be very great difficulties in Dublin in forming such committees as have been suggested to be of any practical use to us. We should certainly lose the immense advantage of getting constant assistance from South Kensington, the indirect assistance from there being really greater than the direct assistance. I feel we should lose that if we were cut off.

2208. That is your opinion, of course?—Yes. I am not giving merely an opinion in the sense that a witness outside the museum may give it. I am giving what I feel from my actual knowledge of the constant assistance I am getting, of which nobody knows but myself.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2209. You think that it would be very difficult to have that if you were entirely separated?—I am afraid we should lose it. As regards the books in the National Library of Ireland being insufficient as regards those specially required by art students, I quite agree; but in order not to exaggerate, Mr. Graves made a mistake in saying 1,000*l.*; it is 1,300*l.* I got that increase a short time ago.

2210. In



10 May 1898.]

Lieut.-Col. G. T. PLUNKETT, M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.

[Continued.]

*Mr. Daly.*

2210. In the last report issued, was the amount 1,000l.?—He was, no doubt, reading from a report previous to the increase; it is 1,300l.

2211. Mr. Graves was correct as to the last report that was issued?—I do not know; I cannot remember without referring, but I have no doubt he was correct as to the report he was reading from, but since that, the 1,000l. has been increased to 1,300l. Still, as we have no special art library in Dublin, we should be very liberally treated in votes for the National Library, in order to get such books as art students and technical students require. Even that grant, increased as it is, is quite insufficient. As regards the extension of hours, I am daily expecting to receive sanction to my proposal to extend it till 10 o'clock on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the two days it is open in the evening. At present the hour of closing is 9.

*Chairman.*

2212. When do you close it on other days?—At 5 in summer and earlier than 5 in winter; when it gets dark.

2213. What are your hours on Sunday?—From 2 to 5 only, and I should very much like to see it open all Sunday evening. When Mr. Graves said the visitors had no power of initiation, I think I am right in saying that, in a letter which has already been put in in this Committee, the Vice-President or the Lord President at some previous time pointed out that my Lords would always be glad to have the opinion of the visitors on any subject if they chose to offer it. That is a power of initiation of course, and I think I am right in saying it is in the letter. As it is said that we do not help any other museums in Ireland, I should just like to point out that we are assisting the small museums which are now commencing in Waterford and in Wexford, as well as the one in Belfast. Of course I am very glad indeed to see any extension of that assistance.

2214. Practically that is a question for the Treasury?—It is a matter for the Treasury where we have duplicate objects in natural history for instance, which these country concerns generally begin with, duplicate objects not wanted in the central museum, and with which we can assist them with at little expense.

Mr. WILLIAM JOHN COURTHOPE, called in; and Examined.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2219. WHAT is your official designation?—I am First Civil Service Commissioner.

2220. I asked you to come in order to put certain questions to you on the subject of probation of officials and examinations. With regard to the first question, the probation, is it the case, as stated by the Secretary of the Department to this Committee, that at the end of the first year's service of every official, excluding persons below the rank of second class clerks and those appointed under Clause 7, they have probationary or so-called probationary reports made about them to you?—Not to us.

0.5—10.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2215. South Kensington sends you a good many too?—We have a large number of things on permanent loan from South Kensington which I hope we shall never lose; it is really a very great part of the museum, and they do not send us temporary loans as they do to Belfast; they do not treat us as a provincial museum. We should suffer very much if we were told we were to have loans from South Kensington on the same terms and in the same way as any provincial town in England. That I should not like. We claim to be a National museum, and on quite a different footing. I understood Mr. Graves to say that the art students having the School of Art quite close to the museum have no occasion to work in the museum, I think he said so. That was a mistake on his part, because a considerable number of art students are constantly working in the museum. It is necessary for them, and is one of the objects of the museum.

*Mr. Daly.*

2216. Is there any room in the museum for the art students?—They draw and paint from the different objects in the museum; you cannot move the objects always.

2217. But there is no room?—They do not want a separate room, of course, they have their school within 40 yards of it, but they come over there, bring their drawing-board, their easel, and so on, and work at the objects they want to work from in a proper way just as they do at South Kensington. I should not like it to be thought they do not do that, because that is one of the great objects of the museum. I have nothing else to add except to repeat that we get such an enormous amount of indirect assistance as well as direct assistance from South Kensington that I hope nothing will ever be done that will in any way lessen that.

*Chairman.*

2218. And you think that those relations between you and South Kensington are of very great value?—Very great indeed; the only thing we complain of is the bad treatment from the Treasury, such as when things have been proposed by us and strongly recommended by the department, such, for instance, as that new College of Science, for years the Treasury have caused the delay, and refused to give it to us.

*Lord Balcarras—continued.*

2221. To whom are they made?—To the head of the department.

2222. Are they not for your service?—Not in the least; we hear no more of them after we once issue our certificate except in the case of second division clerks if they happen to be non-accepted, as the phrase is.

2223. When you have placed a man in his position after examination, all responsibility lapses from your shoulders?—Entirely.

2224. Has your attention been drawn to the following question and answer (1077) by the Secretary



10 May 1898.]

Mr. COURTHOPE.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

Secretary of the Science and Art Department?  
—I imagine I observed it in passing it over.

2225. I will read it to you and then ask if you will agree or disagree with it: "I gather that at the end of the first year a report on every official at South Kensington is made to my Lords on his qualifications?"—(A.) No; a report is made to the Civil Service Commission. (Q.) Not to my Lords?—(A.) No. (Q.) And the report, of course, says that he is qualified or is not qualified?—(A.) Yes; qualified or not qualified to continue. (Q.) Is that report sent in regularly?—(A.) Always; you are bound to send it with regard to everybody." Do you agree with that?—Entirely. Perhaps I might be allowed to say I quite see how the confusion has arisen.

*Chairman.*] I think you ought to read the next question: "Does it only apply to those persons who come fresh as boys into the department, or to all those who are appointed to the department?"—A. Well, it would not apply to the Director of the Museum," and so on.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2226. That comes under Clause 7, as I mentioned. I leave that as you disagree with that portion of the evidence. Now, I will ask you about examinations. I understand you have had a communication from the Clerk of this Committee?—Yes.

2227. I wish to ask you whether, in the examination of which Mr. Lockhart has sent us the marks, any member of the examining body was also a paid official of the Science and Art Department?—That I cannot tell you straight off, I am afraid.

2228. Can you tell me who they were?—No; I am afraid the Commissioners are entirely responsible themselves, and we do not disclose the names of our examiners.

2229. That is a question that you do not wish to answer?—I do not wish to answer that.

*Chairman.*

2230. Have you any printed rules for your guidance?—With regard to the examination?

2231. No, I am going back to the question of probation at the end of one year?—Yes, it is under an Order in Council.

2232. Would you read us the exact language of that Order in Council?—Certainly. I can quite understand how the confusion has arisen.

2233. Will you read the words of the Order in Council?—The present Clause 6 as it stands at present is, "After the candidate has passed his examination, and his certificate of qualification has been issued by the Commissioners, he shall enter on a six months' period of probation, during which his conduct and capacity in the transaction of business shall be subjected to such tests as may be determined by the chief of the department for which he is intended, and he shall not be finally appointed to the public service unless his six months' probation shall furnish to the head of his department satisfactory proof of his fitness to be permanently employed in that department."

Lord *Balcarres*.

2234. Does that express what you call the confusion of the statement of the secretary, that the report is made to the Civil Service Commission?—That Standing Order as it is at present replaced the old clause which was in existence in 1871, and which has now disappeared, and in that clause as it stood then the words are "After the candidate reported as aforesaid by the Commissioners has been appointed to the office or employment he shall enter on a period of probation, during which his conduct and capacity in the transaction of business shall be subjected to such tests as may be determined by the chief of the department to which he is attached, and he shall not remain in the public service after six months from the date of his appointment unless satisfactory proofs of his fitness shall have been furnished to the chief of such department, and a certificate of his qualification shall have been issued by the Civil Service Commissioners. A formal record of the particulars and the result of such probation signed by the chief of the department shall be furnished to the Civil Service Commissioners and filed in their office, and they shall thereupon and not sooner if such record shall be satisfactory issue their certificate of the candidate's qualification for employment." That has now vanished.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

2235. That was the regulation of 1871?—Yes.

*Chairman.*] When was it abolished; in 1871.?

Mr. *Bartley*.

2236. Was it abolished by Order in Council?—Yes.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2237. This information would have been good 27 years ago?—Yes.

Mr. *Bartley*.

2238. You state there is still a period of probation?—Yes.

2239. Does it not ever come to you?—No, we hear nothing at all of the results of the probation.

2240. What is the process by which the department, if a newly appointed clerk, or whoever he is, is not satisfactory, gets rid of him?—He is dismissed; we hear no more about it.

2241. Absolutely on their own initiative?—Yes.

2242. Have you ever known a case occur?—The only cases in which a clerk comes back to us, in the case of non-acceptance during probation, are the second division clerks. The second division, being common to the whole service, are returned to us in the event of their being non-accepted by the department to which we assign them. We then decide whether they shall be assigned to another department.

*Chairman.*

2243. At what time is that return made; how many months after the appointment?—At the end of a year, I think.

Mr. *Bartley*.

2244. Then you do get a report?—We get, in the event of their non-acceptance, a report from the department which declines to accept them.

2245. And



10 May 1898.]

Mr. COURTHOPE.

[Continued.]

Mr. Bartley—continued.

2245. And I suppose they give the reasons?—They give the reasons.

2246. And you judge from those reasons whether you shall send them to another department or get rid of them altogether?—Quite so.

Lord Balcarras.

2247. That only applies to second class clerks?—Yes. In the case of a second class clerk who is accepted we hear no more of him.

Mr. Bartley.

2248. Then as a matter of fact you do not have any report except about an unsatisfactory second class clerk?—Quite so.

2249. I suppose the candidates have no knowledge of who the examiners are unless they happen to know them personally?—No, they cannot know.

Lord Balcarras.

2250. Why not?—We keep it entirely in our own hands; we do not print the names of the examiners on the papers.

2251. Is there not a *viva voce* examination?—Yes; they would have an opportunity of knowing who examined them *viva voce*, no doubt.

Mr. Bartley.

2252. You vary the examiners very much, I suppose?—Yes, constantly.

Chairman.

2253. Supposing there is an official who is appointed and who turns out unsatisfactory, do you know how he is got rid of?—No, we know nothing about it.

2254. In Question 1085 Sir John Donnelly says this. He is asked "At whose instance; is it the Civil Service Commissioners, or do my Lords take action in the matter then; what is the process?—(A.) His appointment is granted on the condition that at the end of the year he shall be found satisfactory; and if the department could not certify that he was satisfactory, his appointment would, I take it, *ipso facto* lapse as a civil servant. (Q.) The report is to make a record of the matter; the Civil Service Commissioners have no function whatever in discharging a man from his post?—(A.) No, his appointment would not continue." I think it comes to this, that you have given us an opinion of your own, and we must ask what Sir John Donnelly has to say, and possibly we may ask the favour of your attendance again?—Certainly.

Mr. Bartley.

2255. That, practically, was the system before 1871?—Yes.

Mr. G. E. SPRING-RICE, C.B., called in; and Examined.

Lord Balcarras.

2256. WILL you state your official position?—I am Principal Clerk to the Treasury.

2257. I am to ask that evidence shall be given on the system of keeping the accounts, bookkeeping, and so forth; is the Treasury responsible for that system?—The Treasury is by statute responsible for giving directions for the way in which the accounts of moneys voted by Parliament are kept. That is under the Exchequer and Audit Act.

2258. I asked you to come particularly about what are called the H. Votes. Have you the Estimates before you?—Yes.

2259. For what year?—For this year.

2260. Will you refer to page 5, at the top of the page. Take first of all "General Administration, 400L."?—Yes.

2261. Does that convey to your mind the impression that 400L. is asked for by the department, and voted by Parliament for the service of the general administration, approximately?—Approximately, yes.

2262. Does 1,200L. for the Royal College of Science, London, mean, approximately, so far as that estimate goes, that is the sum asked for by the department, and sanctioned virtually by Parliament for the needs of the Royal College of Science?—Yes.

2263. And similarly, 500L. for Bethnal Green?—Yes.

2264. Are you aware that during the last 10 years something like 6,800L. has been allocated in this manner to Bethnal Green?—I have not had an opportunity of looking at the figures, 0.5—10.

Lord Balcarras—continued.

but I am quite prepared to take it from you that that is so.

2265. Assuming that to be the case, would that mean that, approximately, the department required that sum for the services of "Furniture, Materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition"?—It would mean that the department had expected to require amounts in the year totalling up to that figure.

2266. But if 500L., we will say, were put in year after year, one would assume that 500L. was what they had found to be the amount required?—Yes, I think, certainly.

2267. If it be alleged that of that 6,800L. a very large proportion has not been spent on these objects at Bethnal Green, can you disprove it?—I am not quite prepared for this question of detail, but I think I may say with confidence that the Treasury has not at its command the means of checking that statement.

2268. That is to say, that in the Appropriation Account these five items are put together, and the surplus or deficit would not be shown on one of the items of these five services but upon the whole Vote, H. 5?—That is so, I believe. I was not quite prepared on this point, but I believe I am right. I hope you will excuse me if being unprepared I make a mistake. I speak with some confidence in saying that that is so; that I have answered correctly Lord Balcarras' question.

2269. That applies also to H. 6, the next Vote, does it not?—Yes, it would.

2270. And I presume also to H. 7?—Yes.

2271. I suppose Estimates come before the Treasury,

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10 May 1898.]

Mr. SPRING-RICE, C.B.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

Treasury, do they not, in the month of November or thereabouts?—Yes.

2272. When you find for 10 years running the sum of 500*l.* is put down for Bethnal Green Museum, I presume the vigilance of the Treasury is directed to inquiring whether that sum be or be not required?—In the case of these sub-divisions of sub-heads such as H. 5, I should say that as a matter of practice the Treasury attention would be mainly directed to the total of the sub-head, as proposed in the division of the sub-head, as compared with the details of actual expenditure in previous years. Those we watch very carefully.

2273. But you do not know how much was spent on Bethnal Green last year or the year before?—No.

2274. And in short, you repeat that if it is alleged that out of the 6,800*l.* voted for materials, that is not the making of the materials into cases, but the materials voted for Bethnal Green, if it is alleged that out of that sum a great proportion has been spent on other items in the vote, you are unable to prove or disprove the statement?—On other items of the division of the sub-head?

2275. Yes?—Yes, subject to what I have said, I believe that is correct.

2276. As these sub-heads are divided up into items for the convenience of Parliament and the public, would it not be a valuable thing even if it did add somewhat to the work that Parliament and the public should know how much of these sums have been spent on the objects for which they were voted by Parliament?—I think the suggestion is one well worthy of consideration.

2277. Would it involve a great addition to your labour?—It would not involve any appreciable addition to the labour of the Treasury; how much addition it would or would not involve to the labour of book-keeping in the Science and Art Department I am not prepared to say.

2278. Has it not rather been the principle of the Lords of the Treasury that money may be well spent and is never grudged by the Treasury for the purpose of making the administration, especially the financial administration, precise and clear?—I certainly think that is a sound general principle, but I should venture to suggest the counter consideration that there may be a possibility of excess of detail and of excessive labour in book-keeping. I do not say that with reference to the particular suggestion, but in general.

2279. With regard to the H. Votes, here you have in succession items of 2,000*l.*, 11,000*l.*, 25,000*l.*, 11,000*l.*, 5,000*l.*, 15,000*l.*, 9,000*l.*, 6,000*l.*, and 3,000*l.* respectively. Do you consider it quite in accordance with, shall I say, modern Parliamentary ideas that these huge sums should be flying about and no precise audit given upon them to the House of Commons?—That I am afraid is a question difficult to answer in general terms, because sub-heads vary immensely in magnitude; one may be 500*l.*, and there is one in the vote before this of 4,600,000*l.*

2280. Do you not think that in cases where votes are so much shuffled, or can be so much shuffled, interchanged, it would not be better to

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

have the audit more precise. I will put it in a very concrete and bare form to you. Do you think that the Treasury or the Auditor General ought to be in a position to disprove an allegation that moneys are spent on services for which Parliament did not intend their expenditure?—I think that the Treasury and the Auditor General ought to be able to see that money is not diverted from the purpose for which Parliament intended it, but it has been a familiar maxim that within reasonable limits a certain amount of diversion, I am again speaking in the abstract, is practically necessary. That is a familiar principle to members of the Public Accounts Committee.

2281. That is as a rule shown in the Appropriation Accounts?—Yes.

2282. Have you interchanged moneys under H. 5 which are not shown in the Appropriation Account?—No.

Chairman.

2283. The Comptroller and Auditor General examines these accounts under the Act of 1866?—Yes.

2284. Is it not rather his function than that of the Treasury to check these accounts?—The Comptroller and Auditor General can only act on the accounts, or rather on the Estimates, as they are voted by Parliament. If Parliament votes on the motion of the Executive Government a certain sum under a certain division of a sub-head, the business of the Comptroller and Auditor General is to see that nothing is charged to that sub-head which is not appropriate to it, and that if the total of the sub-head is exceeded the Treasury sanction for such excess should be obtained.

2285. But as regards the sub-divisions, supposing there is some transfer from one sub-division to another, would this be the process: The Audit Office, if any transfer in the sub-divisions seems to exceed the right and proper latitude of the department, would notice and report it in the Report on the Appropriation Account to the House of Commons; do you consider that an accurate description?—It is within his discretion to make any comment which suggests itself to him on the account.

2286. In the Report on the Appropriation Account?—Yes.

2287. Then if there is no such notice in the report you assume he is satisfied?—Within the sphere of his knowledge.

2288. No one can go beyond the sphere of his knowledge, I presume?—If I might illustrate what I mean, supposing that H. 7 is kept all in one book by the accounting officer, and that the payments in that book are not distinguished whether they are for general administration or for the Royal College of Art as to the fact of which I have no knowledge, but supposing that were so he obviously could not tell whether more was being spent on general administration and less on the College of Art.

2289. Would not the accounts presented to the Comptroller and Auditor General enable him to observe any transfer which he thought undesirable?—Not necessarily.

2290. Why not?—Because it does not follow that



10 May 1898.]

Mr. SPRING-RICE, C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

that because there are five heads in H. 7 in the estimate, the books of the department are kept under five heads also. There is no necessity for their being so, because that is a division of a sub-head which is technically a sub-head, and has as such to be accounted for in the Appropriation Account in one line of figures only.

2291. Has not the Audit Office the means of seeing how much has been ultimately spent under each sub-division?—It might have or might not have in a particular case; I cannot tell whether in this case it has those means or has not. That depends on the form in which the books are kept.

2292. Would not the Audit Office desire to have that information?—I do not think they could call on the accounting officer in the case of a sub-division of a sub-head like H. 5, or H. 7, to keep five heads on his voted account. They certainly would not have a statutory right to do so, which they have to require for information.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2293. You mean, I see, that according to the present system, the department is at liberty to transfer from item to item under H. 5, but that the Exchequer and Audit Department only requires one set of figures in book-keeping account for the sums jointly expended under that vote?—I can answer without hesitation that the only necessity is to keep one account; whether as a matter of fact more accounts are kept, perhaps the Committee will excuse me from answering.

2294. We have it in evidence that they are not—

*Chairman.*

2295. The statement you make as to the sub-divisions applies to other departments besides the Science and Art Department?—Yes.

2296. It applies to the British Museum, for example?—Yes.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2297. The heading of H. 5 is, "Furniture, Materials, &c."?—Yes.

2298. If every one of these five items were kept separate, would it not be necessary to have materials bought for each of these, and would it not involve an enormous amount of trouble in the workshop in arranging which bit of wood should be used for one place, and which for another?—I think it would, certainly, in fact obviously add to the complication of accounts. I do not feel sure, speaking off-hand, whether it would necessarily lead to a complication of administration. They might buy all their goods under general contract, and then pass them to different sub-sub-heads.

2299. Is not the very object of the vote, being in one item with sub-heads, merely intended to indicate roughly that that is about the cost of each head to be apportioned in a certain extent, according to the discretion of the head of that department?—That is the effect of the present form of estimate.

2300. Is not that the intention. If it is not the intention, if you hesitate about that, why do you have these different sub-heads divided in other ways, why do you separate heating and

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*Mr. Bartley*—continued.

lighting from travelling; those are two different items?—I follow you. The reason I hesitated was, because this form of sub-heads dates from 1884, and one does not quite like to say what was or was not the intention some years ago.

2301. Was it not arranged with great care, and was there not a great deal of discussion as to the arrangement of sub-heads at that time?—There was an overhaul of the sub-heads of this vote in 1884, and certain alterations were made.

2302. And it was then thought to be arranged to the best advantage for separating them in the most business-like way?—I presume so.

*Chairman.*

2303. The form of the accounts is settled by the Treasury, as I understand?—Yes, for the form the Treasury is responsible.

2304. And you are responsible for the sub-divisions?—Yes, we are responsible for all the form. We cannot take responsibility for knowing the inside of another department's affairs, but the Treasury is responsible for the form of the Estimates and, as you are aware, that has been repeatedly stated in Parliament.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2305. And if you thought any other arrangement would be more satisfactory in accounting for the money voted, you would direct that the form of accounts should be altered?—It would be within the power of the Treasury to have it suggested.

2306. And to have it carried out?—Yes.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2307. You have also stated that certain reforms are worthy of consideration, in your opinion?—I do not want to prejudge a question of that kind which has not been before the Treasury, but if, for instance, this Committee were to say that they thought it desirable that the Treasury should watch the expenditure under the five items in H. 7 separately, the Treasury would give that suggestion the most respectful consideration, and although I cannot say whether it would or would not be done, I see no difficulty in doing it.

*Chairman.*

2308. Do you not think if any department has to exercise its duty it ought to be allowed to exercise its discretion?—I have no difficulty in answering yes to that question.

2309. Take such a case as the South Kensington Museum. Supposing they thought it desirable to have an exhibition for some reason or another, and that the holding of that exhibition would lead to some transfer from one sub-division to another, would you wish the rigidity to be such that they could not have the exhibition?—I have rather a difficulty in taking the particular case, but it is quite conceivable that, in a case of that kind, it might be desirable that the Treasury should have a voice in such a transfer of funds as you contemplate.

2310. Taking an example at the Bethnal Green Museum, they had last year an exhibition of furniture, and they have this year an exhibition of boots, both of which would be eminently successful and most popular in the district. It

is



10 May 1898.

Mr. SPRING-RICE, C.B.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

is possible that certain cases may have been required for those exhibitions, and that certain transfers under certain sub-divisions might have to be made in order to carry out these exhibitions. Would you wish to restrict the discretion of the authorities in such a matter?—I am afraid I am hardly in a position to give a general answer to a question of that kind.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2311. But, as a matter of fact, you have often authorised a transfer from one item to another for special purposes?—Certainly; my reserve is in answering this question: What discretion ought the department to have in pushing any sums of money about within the total limits of this vote, and I do not feel able to give a general answer to that.

*Chairman.*

2312. I asked you if they ought to have any discretion, and I illustrated my meaning by mentioning those two most useful exhibitions?—Those I believe were within the discretion of the department; we heard nothing of them officially.

2313. Would you wish discretion to be crippled in such cases?—One wishes to cripple administrative discretion as little as possible. How far financial discretion should be, perhaps you will allow me to demur to crippled, but subject to financial criticism is another question.

*Lord Balcarras.*

2314. With regard to transfer; speaking generally, when considerable sums are transferred, you think the Treasury ought to be asked?—When the transfer is from one sub-head to another the Treasury must be asked.

2315. But when you have votes of 25,000*l.*, the transfers can be carried out without the

*Lord Balcarras*—continued.

Treasury being asked?—If they are within the purpose of that vote, that is so.

*Mr. Bartley.*

2316. Let me take a concrete case. In H. 6 there are two small items: foreman for works, and foreman for lighting, and then a very large vote for artisans, labourers, engineers, and so on. If the department found it necessary to have another foreman, I suppose they would have the discretion to pay him out of the 14,900*l.*?—No, they would not have that discretion; if they did it without coming to the Treasury, the Auditor General would undoubtedly query it.

2317. If they applied to you, that is a discretion you would probably agree to?—Yes, if the case was made out.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2318. Do you know of any institution in the case of which the whole of its expenditure is voted *en bloc*, as it is in the case of Bethnal Green?—I do not quite follow. I can find the expenditure for Bethnal Green under a good many sub-heads.

2319. There are whole items, as Lord Balcarras pointed out, placed every year with respect to Bethnal Green?—Under various sub-heads, yes.

*Chairman.*

2320. I think I may take it as your view, from what you have said, that although, as an official of the Treasury, you desire financial accuracy, you do not wish it to be carried to such an extent as to cripple the efficiency of a department?—Certainly not. The extent to which it must be carried in a given case is obviously a matter for consideration on the given case.

2321. Because efficiency and elasticity may have a close relation to each other?—They may, no doubt.

[Adjourned to Friday next,  
at Twelve o'clock.]







Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Tuesday, 10th May 1898.*

<i>Mr. Arnold Graves</i>	- - - -	p. 119
<i>Lieutenant-Colonel G. T. Plunkett,</i> <i>M.R.I.A., M.R.A.S.</i>	- - - -	p. 131
<i>Mr. William John Courthope</i>	- - - -	p. 137
<i>Mr. G. E. Spring-Rice, C.B.</i>	- - - -	p. 139

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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No. 11.  
Spans 2/5

97.B.39.

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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11.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 13th May 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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Friday, 13th May, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL IN THE CHAIR.

MR. JOHN LOBB, called in; and Examined.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

2322. How long have you been a resident in Bethnal Green, or in the East End?—Fifty-seven years.

2323. You are a member of the County Council?—The Common Council.

2324. And of the London School Board?—For twelve years. I am now on my fifth term. I have been associated with the London School Board for twenty years and twelve years a member.

2325. With what other public bodies in the East End are you connected?—I am a governor of Lady Holle's Trust for Mare Street and Cripplegate.

2326. Do you know the museum at Bethnal Green well?—Yes, I have been associated with it on the fringe of its work from its inception.

2327. In 1865?—From its inception—my public work has been for the most part in Bethnal Green and South Hackney, just on the boundary line.

2328. Could you tell us if the original conception of Bethnal Green included a library and a department of Science and Art?—It was common talk, but whether it was part and parcel of the original design I cannot say. We understood it to be so—whether it was so in the deed or with those who had to do with it in its earlier history I cannot say, but we Bethnal Green people had it very clearly before us that that was the original design and intent.

2329. This letter I am about to read is addressed by Sir Henry Cole to the Rev. Septimus Hansard on the 12th December, 1870, in which he says, "I am directed to inform you that your letter of the 17th ult. has been submitted to the Lords of Committee of Council on Education, who have been pleased to direct that arrangements shall be made for the provision of a School of Science and Art and a library in connection with the East London Museum at Bethnal Green in accordance with your suggestion"?—That is so; it was common talk, and we were greatly disappointed when we found that in

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Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.

the opening of the building no provision had been made for that department. We were led to believe that it would come along in due course, but we have patiently waited without any result.

2330. Can you tell us who provided the site for the Bethnal Green Museum?—I cannot do that.

2331. Could you take back your memory to the fact that it was provided by the inhabitants in the East End, and that the site originally belonged to a charity?—I believe it did, and I took some part in public meetings in the agitation, but I have had to do with so much public work that I fail to recall every question. I know I have taken a very active part with reference to the site there, and also the adjacent site in securing it for an open space.

2332. Do you think the Bethnal Green Museum is an institution which is a source of great instruction or even usefulness to the residents in the East End?—I cannot say that it is a source of instruction. I have very serious misgivings as to its utility as at present arranged. I may be out of harmony with some of my friends, but taking a keen interest in the inhabitants and their welfare, I have had on many occasions to express my deep regret that such a building has not been put to better purposes and purposes we were let to anticipate it would be put to. One has to be thankful in the East End for small mercies, and our expressions of regret have been somewhat suppressed lest we should lose anything.

2333. And I suppose you consider that without a School of Science and Art and a library as originally contemplated, the museum is not likely to prove of any substantial benefit to the East End, or to fulfil the original purpose of its foundation?—We look upon it as a white elephant—that is common talk amongst those who know and work for the working-classes—those of us who take an active interest in their welfare. Of course we are pleased to let the children go in to

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13 May 1898.]

MR. LOBB.

[Continued.]

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

get them out of the way now and then, and young people go in sometimes out of the wet, but very little else.

2334. If you will kindly answer my question—whether without the adjunct of the original idea of the School of Science and Art and a library, it can ever be made into a useful institution capable of fulfilling the original object of its inception?—I feel certain it cannot; you see I ought to be able to know, having had under my care in that part 15,000 children, being the responsible member for 15,000 children attending the Board Schools, and having the teachers—having to settle all the little misunderstandings, I am constantly in contact with them, and therefore I am speaking from personal knowledge, not merely hearsay, and I do not think it ever can be made to fulfil the purposes which you indicate.

2335. Do you remember a deputation waiting upon the Duke of Marlborough, the Lord President, and upon Lord Robert Montagu, the Vice-President of the Council, in connection with the museum on the 12th February, 1868?—I cannot say whether I was a member of that deputation; I remember it very well; I have been up many times one way or another to the Charity Commissioners and elsewhere, and urged that something should be done. I know there was such a deputation.

2336. I suppose you cannot recall the fact that the claim for the museum was based principally upon the great necessity there was in the East End for some establishment so that instruction adapted to the particular trades of the locality could be given?—Yes, I believe every argument was used to induce the authorities to give us some interest in the manner indicated. We have for the past twenty years urged again and again—I have been constantly up—deputation after deputation, but whether it is we have not powers of expression or what, we have utterly failed.

2337. If the original scheme, which included a Science and Art school, a library, and a lecture hall, was eventually cut down in the process of completing Bethnal Green Museum, would you consider that institution in its present form an entirely incomplete one?—Quite so.

2338. Do you think that the inhabitants in the East End, owing to the promises made to them in this respect, have a claim and call upon the authorities for the fulfilment of the pledges given?—I think they have a very cogent claim.

2339. So that in its present form you do not regard the Bethnal Green Museum as at all carried to completion?—No, I do not.

2340. In its present form could you suggest any means of making it more useful than it has proved in the past?—Yes. In the first place we want a lending library there—a good library. In addition to that we want a hall and class rooms. We want a hall—not a large hall—for lecturing purposes, and class rooms for instruction in the various branches of technical knowledge.

2341. When I tell you that the annual expenditure on Bethnal Green Museum is 3,710*l.*, excluding the payments that are made to the higher staff under other heads, would you consider that expenditure at all adequate to the

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

good the museum does?—I can hardly answer that. I do not know how many you have on the staff in the various departments, and how many supervisors you have, but as to whether it is necessary I should not think it really would be necessary.

2342. What I mean to ask you is this: whether the results of the Bethnal Green Museum as far as the East End population is concerned warrant an expenditure on that institution of 3,710*l.*?—I think not.

2343. Going back to your answer to a previous question, you are in favour of having a library and lecture hall?—Yes, with a few class rooms for instruction in technical education.

2344. You allude to technical classes, I suppose from the fact that the original idea of having a Science and Art school meant that there should be some sort of teaching in scientific and art subjects done in connection with the museum?—That is so.

2345. What is the sort of instruction that you think should be given in the classes as well as the lecture hall in order to carry out the first idea of adapting the museum to the particular trades of the locality in which it was established?—A knowledge of the elementary subjects that have reference to the various trades—carpentry and other departments—just on the fringe of the science; not passing right into it, but just on the border-line.

2346. You are aware that in the past two or three years there have been exhibitions held in the Museum?—Yes.

2347. Do you consider that they have had any effect in instructing the popular mind?—Not at all—it was just a temporary pleasure and recreation, but with no permanent result.

2348. What should you think would be the proper means to adopt in order to make such exhibitions an agency for instructing the popular mind on the subjects on which the exhibitions are held?—In the first place you would have to have, say, two attached well qualified men—I suppose not more than three—two or three—who would be able to dilate on these various subjects, say, some afternoons, but in the evenings for the most part, because it is essentially such a heavy working population. Thursday afternoon is looked upon as a period of recreation, and many would be glad to avail themselves of an hour or two hours' instruction on a Thursday afternoon; but for the most part they would require the tuition in the evening, and the lectures.

2349. You mean to say that if such provision for instruction were made there would be a sufficient number of people to attend and take the instruction?—I am quite sure there would.

2350. In fact, the absence of which has been felt as a want?—Keenly felt, and expressions of regret loud and many. I may say, as a constant visitor to the evening classes—I am a member of the evening classes at the London School Board, and I take a very deep interest in that work, mixing with the young people—that the older scholars feel it very keenly. You see, you have 20,000 children in and around there, Board School children, attending, and they grow up very quickly; they seem to grow up out of knowledge almost, and I meet them and ask, "What



13 May 1898.]

MR. LOBB.

[Continued.]

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

"What are you doing now?" and I am told, "At home." There really is no building in which they can gather. We shall close our Board Schools presently for the session, and then they will play out in the corners of the streets or elsewhere.

2351. Do you think that people were sufficiently notified, by means of advertisements or other notices, with regard to these exhibitions?—If you would give us anything worthy of attending to you may be sure that you would enlist a large number of people.

2352. Have you any opinion to offer on the subject whether as many people as could be expected under the circumstances attended these exhibitions?—As to how many have attended?

2353. Yes?—I have no knowledge, there has been no interest.

2354. In the locality?—No interest in the locality.

2355. Supposing the original conception of having a library in connection with the museum was found impracticable, would you be in favour of a public library being placed contiguous to or within the grounds of the museum?—That would be the next best thing.

2356. You have a free library in Bethnal Green?—We have only a small free library, with which you are acquainted—no other.

2357. And it is not a library supported by rates?—We have none.

2358. Could you kindly explain why that is so?—We have tried on two occasions, but the burden of the rate has been so heavy that there has been a very strong feeling not to increase it.

2359. On account of the extreme poverty of the population?—Quite so.

2360. But that is no proof that a free public library is not wanted?—Well, you have only to refer to the way in which the present small building is appreciated and the number who avail themselves of its advantages to get a sufficient answer to the question.

2361. I suppose you mean to say that you are convinced at all events that there is great want of such a library, and that the library such as it is well supported as regards the number of readers and students?—It has long been a felt want, and if you were to honour us by giving us such a boon you would soon see how it would be appreciated.

2362. If this library were placed contiguous to the museum, do you think it would have the effect of increasing the popularity as well as the utility of the museum?—I am sure it would.

2363. In what way?—It would be a sort of relief from their studies and lectures to go into the museum for a change, and it would also induce some of their friends, who would afterwards join them in a little recreation, to spend the time when they were waiting for them in the museum. I believe it would be a rendezvous for many of the young people. It would increase the popularity of the present building.

2364. What I want to direct your attention to more is the instruction side of the museum. Would it do anything to promote and carry out to a larger extent than has been done heretofore the utility of the museum on the instruction

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Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

side of it?—Certainly, undoubtedly it would; we should look upon it as our building then.

2365. As a resident in the locality, and knowing it well, would you kindly express an opinion whether the location of a library within the grounds of the museum would in any way detract from either the ornamental appearance or the convenience of the museum building?—I believe it would be a grand acquisition to the building and to the neighbourhood.

2366. So that you are quite in favour of having a library in connection with the museum, whether it is the library which was originally contemplated, or whether it is any other library which is at present existing and is a popular institution in that part of London?—I am.

Mr. Woodall.

2367. You told the Committee you have serious misgivings as to the utility of the Bethnal Green Museum, especially with regard to the instruction of the people and the trades of that particular locality. Do I gather that you think it is so useless, shall I say, in consequence of the want of a free library and of technical classes, for which no provision has yet been made?—You would give it life.

2368. Is that opinion fortified by what you know of the experience of similar institutions in the provinces?—I cannot speak for the provinces.

2369. Is it not within your knowledge that in most of the great industrial and popular centres of the country there is some such combination as that which you desiderate—that is to say, that museums much less important than this one at Bethnal Green are allied with free libraries and schools of art?—I believe they are.

2370. And that is done under the operation of a now very well known Act passed by Mr. William Ewart Gladstone called the "Free Libraries Act"—that is, within your knowledge?—Yes.

2371. You know that that Act has to be adopted by the inhabitants of a particular locality?—Yes.

2372. And being so adopted the inhabitants are enabled to levy a penny rate, and out of that penny rate to maintain museums, free libraries, and schools of science and art?—Yes.

2373. Do you think it would be quite fair for the inhabitants of one locality to claim these combined advantages while other parts of the country have to provide for them by levying this small tax on the inhabitants?—The social and commercial condition of the district would weigh very materially with me.

2374. Naturally. Will you point out to the Committee in what respect the social and commercial conditions of Bethnal Green place it in so exceptional a position as to entitle it to this expenditure from the national resources?—Firstly, they are an extremely poor population.

2375. I suppose the local authority—the local area which you would require to recognise supposing the Free Libraries Act had to be put in operation—would be what?—The Borough of Bethnal Green?—The Borough of Bethnal Green. Yes.

2376. What is the population of the Borough of

of



13 May 1898.]

MR. LOBB.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

of Bethnal Green?—I cannot answer that off-hand.

2377. About what is it?—I should think something like 70,000.

2378. You are not able to give the Committee anything like the proportion of the rateable value and population in Bethnal Green?—I am not.

2379. But you give us a general assurance that it is a populous and a poor district?—I know that from the fact that there are two and three and four families in what I designate small houses.

2380. I suppose it is not necessary to labour the fact that it is an intensely industrial and perhaps a poor district?—I know from personal visitation from house to house that it is so. Some years ago I wrote a column for the "Globe" giving a description of "How the Poor live in Bethnal Green."

2381. You say that if there were attached to the museum on one hand class rooms in which technical instruction might be given and a library such as students at South Kensington are able to resort to, you think it might serve the purpose for which it was originally intended?—Undoubtedly; it would give life to that building.

2382. You have had a very active part on the London School Board, and know the operation of their continuation classes, but you seem to think those do not serve the purpose?—They serve the purpose for the continuation of the elementary part. Very many of those attending the evening classes are those who have been forced to leave the school before having passed the sixth standard; they have got over fourteen, and they are now pursuing elementary work in the evening classes.

2383. You also know about the technical education provided by the London School Board. Does not Bethnal Green share in the advantages of expenditure?—Yes, we have about six schools in the evening, but that is only during a portion of the year.

2384. Have you any classes in association with the City and Guilds of London?—Very few; that is technical for carpentry and other things. At Summer Street, Bethnal Green, we have a centre.

2385. But no attempt has been made to associate that teaching with the museum?—Not yet.

2386. Does it occur to you that possibly the absence of local management—the responsibility of a local committee, such as is enjoyed in the great provincial centres—has had something to do with the failure of the museum to serve the purposes for which it was intended?—Undoubtedly; if you had local men they would know the felt want.

2387. Does not that bring us to the conclusion that until there is a sufficient amount of intelligent public spirit in Bethnal Green to accept the responsibility at once of some share in the finance and some share in the management you can never hope to obtain the end you have in view?—There are men quite ready, but the claims are so heavy upon them from day to day for various interests that it is impossible for them to do all. If we could secure what we hope to do—a site—and you give us a portion of that building, in a

Mr. Woodall—continued.

very few years you will then see how it is appreciated.

2388. But you want to have all the advantages provided for you from the national resources, while the advantages and management should be local?—That is not so; we do not look for that. We want aid and help, and you will soon see how quickly they will be taken advantage of.

2389. Pardon me, you say you want aid; what local effort is there to be added in making this museum serve the purposes we all have in view?—We have already a little fund in hand.

2390. For what purpose?—For a building—a free library.

2391. But that fund has to remain dormant until the locality adopts the Public Libraries Act?—I do not think you will ever get the locality to adopt the Public Libraries Act; the rates and taxes are so heavy, increased taxes mean increased rent, and they fight shy of it. They have got the idea that a free library will run them up to 6d. or 9d. a week of rent, and that is why they fight shy of it.

2392. But influential guides of public opinion like yourself should very easily be able to show that the adoption of the Free Library Act would not cost more than 1s. on the average household a year?—Unfortunately it is very difficult to shake them out of it.

2393. We may take it that a museum provided entirely at the Government expense to serve the purposes of a specially necessitous locality is useless without something further, and that the providing of that something further is not likely to be undertaken by the people of the locality?—We cannot do it; we are too poor.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

2394. Supposing you had in immediate connection with the museum a large educational institute, such, for instance, as University College or King's College, then you would be able to utilize it as you suggest?—But not on such a high scale; not on the high key of the universities. We do not aim so high as that.

2395. What you want rather is technical education, and not university?—And a free library; a library with some possible lectures. We do not aim very high. We have patiently waited for that scheme to be completed, and the inhabitants, of course, have got disheartened, but we have lead them to hope, and hope against hope, and they have a very strong feeling that it is coming round now at last.

2396. I want to get exactly at how you propose to utilise the collections in the Museum for educational purposes?—Those that could be utilised for lecturing purposes. There are departments that are ornamental and that afford amusement, and the amount of silent instruction perceptibly so to speak, but there are other departments that would require explanatory services of gentlemen who are well up in them.

2397. In service or in art?—Both.

2398. In the finer arts—for instance, in what are called more generally the crafts—such as carving, bookbinding, and arts of that kind?—That is it.

2399. And



13 May 1898.]

Mr. LOBB.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Humphreys Owen*—continued.

2399. And anything more on the literary side—anything like history or antiquities?—Not so much antiquities, but history.

2400. The history of manners and customs?—That is it.

Mr. *Yoxall*.

2401. I suppose you remember that some four years ago Mr. Acland, the then Vice-President of the Council, made a suggestion which almost amounted to an offer to hand over the Bethnal Green Museum to the keeping and ownership of the London County Council?—I believe there was some such proposal.

2402. If that offer had been accepted it would have been within the power of the London Technical Educational Board to establish in connection with the Museum just those classes you propose?—I believe it would.

2403. Is it not now practicable for the London Technical Education Board to provide much of the classes you suggest?—I believe it is, seeing that they have set aside 170,000*l.* for it the next year.

2404. Are there in the Museum itself any small or side rooms which would be available for such purposes of teaching?—I cannot answer that question. I am not sufficiently up in the internal arrangements of the buildings.

2405. But you are convinced that it would be possible to have peripatetic lectures in the Museum itself on the objects in the Museum?—I am.

2406. And that they would be of great value and interest to the surrounding population?—They would.

2407. I believe there is an exhibit of boots in the Museum?—I believe there is.

2408. Have you ever heard of a course of lectures being given on those boots?—No.

2409. Although there is a great population in the neighbourhood engaged in the trade of boot-making?—I never heard of any explanatory observations or remarks being offered to anybody.

2410. Have you ever heard anything of catalogues for temporary exhibitions at this Museum being issued six months after the Museum had closed?—I have not heard of that.

2411. It is not within your experience?—No; if I had I should have mentioned it somewhere.

2412. Do you at all remember on the occasion of any temporary exhibition arranged by the Museum authorities there was a convenient compact, and special catalogue arranged for the visitors?—It is not within my knowledge?

2213. Generally speaking, are you dissatisfied with the arrangements which have been made with regard to that Museum?—Intensely, and I make known the feelings of all my neighbours and friends who have lived with me all my life round about there, and the grown-up young people, young men and young women; I am speaking in their name and I am representing their feeling here to-day.

2414. Have you good reason to suppose that the local authorities of Bethnal Green are equally dissatisfied with the arrangement of the Museum?—I have.

0.5—11.

Lord *Balcarras*.

2415. I understand your Museum in some respects may be called almost the most central site in East London, including Tower Hamlets and Hackney?—It is.

2416. It is close to two railway stations, is it not?—It is.

2417. Do car-lines pass through it?—Yes.

2418. And omnibuses going East and West?—Yes.

2419. And it has a very large open space close at hand?—Yes.

2420. And in some ways is not the Bethnal Green Museum perhaps occupying the best site in East London?—It is.

2421. I understand that on the north of the Bethnal Green Museum there is a small somewhat tumbled-down cottage between the Museum and Old Ford Road?—Yes.

2422. That site at present is scarcely occupied except by this cottage?—That is all.

2423. And it is not an ornamental piece of ground like the land to the south of the Museum?—It is not.

2424. That is to say the land to the north of the Museum belongs to the Government and the land to the south of the Museum does not?—Quite so.

2425. As the Government does not intend to build on the site to the north of the Museum, you claim that it might as well be occupied, in view of its non-ornamental character, for public education and other things of that nature?—That is our prayer.

2426. If you were to move this library, which I understand now is in a noisy position opposite the Museum, is it not?—Yes.

2427. And situated on perhaps the lowest?—Most unsuitable.

2428. When I say lowest, I mean the least elevated site in Bethnal Green?—Yes, just near the station.

2429. When you propose to move that library to the site on the north of the Museum, I presume in view of the central character of that Museum you would not consider it merely a benefit for Bethnal Green, but that it would be an equal benefit for the inhabitants of the North and even of the North-west for a considerable area?—For the most part it would be Bethnal Green; we are making provision in Southern Hackney under Sir John Cass's Trust, as you know.

2430. But you could make arrangements so that the benefit of that should not be limited to the immediate inhabitants of Bethnal Green?—Undoubtedly.

2431. You have lived in Bethnal Green for many years?—I was born near there—at Tower Hamlets.

2432. Are you aware that estimates are prepared for the public service every year?—I am.

2433. Are you aware that in those estimates, Class 4 as they are called, is the branch in which the Services of the Science and Art Department occur?—I am.

2434. Are you further aware that under a sub-head called H 5, there is printed a sum in the annual estimates for furniture, materials, etc., and fitting up objects for exhibition?—I am.

2435. Are you aware that during the present year



13 May 1898.]

MR. LOBB.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

year—that is to say the year ending 31st of March, 1899—the Bethnal Green Museum has 500*l.* allotted to it for that service?—I am.

2436. Are you aware that for ten years a specific sum has been allotted to Bethnal Green in this manner?—I am.

2437.—Are you aware that during these ten years this sum comes altogether to 6,800*l.*?—I believe it does.

2438. Will you take it from me that it does?—I will.

2439. Are you aware that the expenditure in making up these objects—artisans, carpenters, and so forth—is paid for out of another vote?—I am not aware of that.

2440. I do not lay great stress upon that, but I ask you now whether you think that 6,800*l.*, which has been allotted, I may say during the ten years, roughly speaking to the Museum, represents the full value of the furniture and materials which have been put into the Museum?—I can hardly think it does unless there has been some collapse, and it has gone for underpinning the establishment.

2441. Are you aware that underpinning would not come under the vote for furniture and materials?—I was not aware of that.

2442. And in the event of there having been a collapse, would it affect your opinion about my question?—Very materially, because I cannot think where the money has gone.

Sir *Henry Howorth*.

2443. What are the chief industries in the district of Bethnal Green?—Boot riveting, furniture manufacturing, rope-making, and weaving velvet and silk—not so much now as formerly—but for the most part boot riveting, the modern manufacture of boots and shoes and furniture.

2444. Is not hand-weaving done there on a considerable scale?—It is, but not so extensively as formerly; it is dying out.

2445. Is there any technical teaching of any kind in the district at this moment?—Yes, given by the Technical Educational Board in connection with the School Board for London, some of the continuation classes only.

2446. For those classes, and for that teaching, are any objects supplied by the Science and Art Department from their Museum at all with the object of illustration?—I think not.

2447. You have already said that the exhibits at Bethnal Green have not been, in your judgment, selected with an adequate view to the kind of manufactures there are in the district?—That is my opinion.

2448. Take two very large collections that have been exhibited there, both of them supremely excellent, the collections shown by Mr. Marjoribanks and one exhibited by Sir Augustus Banks—one of Dresden porcelain and the other the great collection of European porcelains generally, do you consider those two collections are very remote indeed from either the knowledge or the taste or the occupations of the people in that district?—That is the general opinion expressed—it is above them.

Sir *Henry Howorth*—continued.

2449. Is there anybody in the district at all in the artisan class who would be either interested or could profit by exhibitions of that kind?—It would be very transient just for a moment or two.

2450. And you, as a beginning, at all events until the people are better educated and have had opportunities of seeing other matters, would limit very largely the collections exhibited there to the kind of art which would be understood by your people?—Most certainly.

2451. And you think that in order to make this really available you ought to have a lecture room, as there is in every other well-appointed museum, and you ought to have a technical library of some kind attached to it?—Undoubtedly.

2452. And class-rooms?—And class-rooms.

2453. Have you any system at all of craft teaching in the district? Are there any volunteers who do that kind of thing?—Not that I am aware of.

2454. When you speak of having these lectures illustrated by objects in the Museum you spoke of its necessitating the addition of two or three permanent lecturers to the staff. Are you aware that in Manchester and Salford and in other towns in Lancashire that is done very largely by volunteers?—I believe it is.

2455. Would you see any harm in an association of volunteers doing very much the same kind of work in your Museum if there was opportunity?—None whatever.

2456. You have heard the real wish expressed by your working people that such classes and such illustration were given?—Very generally expressed?

2457. Are the catalogues and the guides suited to your kind of people? Are they simple enough and direct enough?—No interest seems to be taken in them whatever.

2458. Are there any very cheap guides—penny or twopenny guides—that are simple?—I have no knowledge of any.

2459.—How far are you from Toynbee Hall?—Quite a mile, if not more.

2460. It has been suggested that Toynbee Hall or Oxford House might be able to afford space or rooms where lectures could be given?—Oxford House is within a few yards.

2461. You tell me you have no library whatever in the district?—That is so, except this little one we are associated with.

2462. But that is a very small thing?—Cramped, and a very small affair.

2463. Is it kept out of the rates?—No, it is purely voluntary.

2464. A purely voluntary library?—Yes.

2465. How far are you in this district from any free library of any importance?—I should think two miles, that one over in the corner, the Shoreditch one is quite 2½ miles away. It is near Kingsland Bridge.

Mr. *Woodall*.

2466. That is established under the Free Libraries Act?—I believe it is, but I believe Mr. Passmore Edwards had a good deal to do with it; it is on the borders of Kingsland.

2467. Would



13 May 1898.]

Mr. LOBB.

[Continued.]

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

2467. Would you think it an advantage if you had a local Committee who had special knowledge of the district to assist in the way of advising the Department as to the class of objects?—Distinctly.

2468. What elements would you form such a Committee out of; whom would you place on such a committee?—Fortunately in Bethnal Green we have a good many public-spirited men, retired tradesmen, and we have a great many voluntary workers there, and there is no difficulty whatever in getting together a number of good and true men who would take a practical, personal interest in any question affecting the welfare of the working classes.

2469. Quite so, but I am rather pointing to something a little more definite than that. Would you have them elected by anybody or appointed by the Science and Art Department, or how would you have such a body chosen?—The electorate should have a voice in it; they are proud of sending their own men on to public boards of this kind.

2470. Are they the people who know the requirements. You see it is not so much zeal as a little knowledge which is needed in these matters. As this may be part of the report of this Committee—these advisory Boards—one would like to know your opinion as to the best way of selecting the Board?—At least you should have some from the district elected by the people who would participate in the benefits, and we have a number of men who are now overseers, and who have risen from the ranks, and who know the advantages of such institutions, and who delight to devote their spare time to the interests of their fellows.

2471. How long do you remember the district?—All my life, fifty seven years.

2472. You were living there when Sir Henry Cole wrote his letter?—Yes.

2473. Do you know at all any reason of any kind why that was not carried out?—We cannot understand it; it has been most perplexing and bewildering to us why it has not been carried out—in fact many have given vent to expressions I should not like to repeat about it.

2474. Not in this room you mean?—No.

2475. You would not mind repeating them in Bethnal Green?—Well I have a reputation to sustain now.

2476. In your opinion it would be a real gain and advantage by the terms of that letter were carried out?—A real boon to the district and to the 20,000 children who are attending those schools marked in green all round about—thousands going from our schools every year, and too poor to purchase books, and with no place where they can meet—no rendezvous of an evening; they must either go to the corners of the streets or up to the West End or elsewhere, and we want to save them. That is pressing upon us now.

*Sir John Gorst.*

2477. Have not the Bethnal Green Board Schools got school libraries?—They have little children's books, but Board Schools do not lay themselves out for that, but there are small small story-books and that kind of thing.

05—11.

*Sir John Gorst—continued.*

2478. Have they not books suitable for the children attending the schools?—Yes, but we are speaking now of those who are grown up.

*Sir Henry Howorth.*

2479. The older boys and girls?—Yes, beyond 14.

2480. Suppose this scheme were recommended by the Committee to be carried out, is there space for this extension near the Museum now?—Just the place—the most central.

2481. What I ask is this: If it was proposed to extend the Museum so as to include these particular advantages, is there space round the present Museum where that could be done?—I think so.

2482. Is there vacant space round it?—There are old places that could be purchased.

*Sir John Gorst.*

2483. Do you know that some time ago it was suggested to the heads of Oxford House that they might use the Bethnal Green Museum for evening classes?—Seriously?

2484. Seriously suggested. Do you know that the suggestion was made to them?—I have not heard of it; it did not get out very far—it has been kept very quiet.

*Chairman.*

2485. Might I ask with, every respect and deference, what is your occupation?—A journalist; I am the editor and proprietor of the "Christian Age," which journal I have edited for 26 years.

2486. Has your attention been much directed, being a journalist, to the value of materials?—I have had a good deal of experience; my experience is very varied. Prior to my journalistic life I was engaged in situations, and so on. I have been at work ever since the age of seven in Bethnal Green.

2487. Has it been part of your business to gauge the value of materials and of work?—I have been on the Building Committee of the School Board, and have had such opportunity, and having been Chairman of the Finance Committee I have had sometimes to compare such matters.

2488. Have you been in the habit of visiting the museum?—Yes, when I wanted shelter in the event of a storm only.

2489. Your visits have probably ended when the storm has ceased?—Yes, there is no interest beyond looking round.

2490. Are you aware that the number of visitors to the museum up to the end of 1896 was thirteen millions and a half?—Including children, I presume. We have a great many children who run in and play there.

2491. Do not the police take measures to prevent children?—The police are very kind to children about our district, and let them take shelter anywhere, and the park-keepers have expressed their gratification that they should go into the museum so as to get rid of them.

2492. Do not you think yourself that for children who perhaps are not blessed with very sumptuous homes it is an advantage to see the beautiful works in the museum?—If they did see them, but they do not go in for that purpose.

2493. Do



13 May 1898.]

Mr. LOBB.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

2493. Do they see them?—They can see them, but there is no disposition to see them, they go in for a different purpose.

2494. I presume that your experience from your visits during a storm differs entirely from mine; my experience in many museums has been that children take an intelligent interest in these objects at an early age?—I find that they take an intelligent interest in things suited to their capacity, but many of these things are above and beyond the capacity of these little children, and they do not go in for that purpose.

2495. It is your opinion as I take it that a museum should not exhibit objects, to use your own words, above the people?—They should be suited somewhat to the capacity of the children if it is for children, but that ostensibly was not for children. Children make it a rendezvous for themselves to get out of the way of the park-keepers and others, I am sorry to say, when they have been guilty of some irregularity.

2496. You do not agree with what has been stated, that artizans take an intelligent interest in the exhibitions there?—Not as at present constituted.

2497. Did they take an intelligent interest in the Furniture Exhibition?—Oh, yes.

2498. Have you seen the Boot Exhibition?—No.

2499. And you are not able to say whether that is exciting an intelligent interest among the bootmakers of Bethnal Green?—I have only heard, but I have not been in.

2500. Are you in favour of showing pictures to the artizan?—I am—elevating and refining.

*Chairman—continued.*

2501. Are you against the Exhibition of Modern Art which is now to be seen in Bethnal Green?—No, I believe in it.

2502. Then to what part of Bethnal Green do you take exception?—Apparently the things that are there for the most part are unsuited to the people.

2503. Which are the things to which you object?—These antique old ancient things.

2504. Which?—I cannot well specify; there is a great number of various interesting things, but not at all calculated to interest the people, such as you have up in the West End.

2505. You had at one time the portraits?—Yes, and we very highly appreciated them.

2506. That was not above the people of Bethnal Green?—No, we took a deep interest in those.

2507. And the only things to which you object, I take it from your evidence, are certain antiquities. Could you describe the antiquities in any way?—No.

2508. Amongst the antiquities there is a very ancient shoe from Egypt, probably very many thousand years old?—Yes.

2509. Do you object to the Bethnal Green people seeing such an object?—No, but they are very few and far between; we want more of them.

2510. My question is, Which of the present exhibits do you dislike or take exception to?—I do not take exception to any of them; it is such a small affair that there is nothing much of it.

2511. What you want is to have a larger exhibition at Bethnal Green?—Quite so.

MR. CHARLES BARKWITH BLOW, called in; and Examined.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2512. How long have you been a resident of Bethnal Green?—Twenty-one years last Christmas.

2513. May I ask what your occupation is?—I am a teacher—head teacher of a board school. I have been in Bethnal Green and just on the borders, within a stone's throw, eighteen years.

2514. Do you know the Bethnal Green Museum well?—I think I know it pretty well so far as visits paid from time to time can make you acquainted with it, or so far as the general public can learn about what is to be seen.

2515. Do you know under what circumstances Bethnal Green Museum was started?—I know it was proposed, as it states in their catalogue, to establish three museums, one in the north, one in the east, and another in the south, and that this was the only one that was started, but I do not know what their ideas were. I have heard that their opinion was that it should be a kind of miniature South Kensington but whether that is true or not I cannot say.

2516. With the object of carrying on the work of instruction in Science and Art. I should think so.

2517. Are you aware that the original plans of the Bethnal Green Museum included a library and a lecture-hall for the purpose of imparting instruction in Science and Art?—I have always

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

understood so, but I cannot say from my own knowledge of blue-books.

2518. If that were so—in fact you may take it from me—do you consider that the withdrawal of that part of the whole scheme has been almost fatal to the educational view with which Bethnal Green was started?—Decidedly, inasmuch as it has left only the amusing portion, and taken away the intellectual.

2519. You mean the purpose which the Bethnal Green Museum at present serves is purely a pleasureable one, or one of amusement and nothing more?—Well, up to this last two or three years, when an attempt has been made to meet the needs of the district in connection with the exhibition of old silks and cabinet work, and latterly of boots;—I consider up to that time it was merely a place of general amusement.

2520. Do you think those exhibitions have done much good?—I think they have done some good, but I think they might have done more.

2521. What were the reasons that they have not done all the good you think they might have done?—In the first place we will take the present one—boots and shoes. In that particular instance there is a large amount of old-fashioned boots and shoes, and new-fashioned and Court shoes and relics—things of that description



13 May 1898.]

Mr. Blow.

[Continued.]

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

description which do not touch the neighbourhood. That is not the class of work that Bethnal Green goes in for, nor the East End generally.

2522. What you meant to say is that the samples or exhibits that are there, are not of the sort of work that is done at the present time in Bethnal Green?—That is what I mean.

2523. Do you not think that exhibiting old samples and old styles—for instance, a boot with a heel about a foot high is some sort of educational work to show the progress that has been made in the good taste and common-sense of the people?—Yes. The point I make is this—that you want someone there to explain and lecture from time to time, otherwise it does not come within their own cognisance.

2524. You mean that for the purpose of these exhibitions, and in order to make them a source of instruction, a system of lectures is essential?—Quite so.

2525. Has there been any attempt at teaching there these subjects?—Not to my knowledge.

2526. And in the absence of such teaching you think that the exhibitions lose the object of their inception?—Not half the good is done that might be done if there were that teaching.

2527. Now in what way, as a practical teacher, do you think that that teaching could be carried on in Bethnal Green, having regard to the fact that there is no lecture-hall?—Of course, I will say plainly I speak mainly for elder children—my own experience of dealing with children; but it would be quite feasible if you had two or three good guides for an exhibition of this kind—I mean oral guides. I am asked as regards the fact that they have not lecture rooms what could be done under the circumstances. I say that it would be quite possible to send numbers of the most intelligent and best instructed children in the daytime to keep them employed. The Education Department allows that, and I could send at least one hundred boys, in perhaps five classes of twenty, who could profit by that.

*Sir John Gorst.*

2528. Who ought to pay for these guides?—That would have to be part of the payment for the Museum work. For instance, in subjects that can be taught, such as history, when I was in the heart of Bethnal Green, if I may mention it, I used to send my teachers there to the National Portrait Gallery with the children to take them round in classes of twenty, and in front of the pictures to tell them of the principal incidents in the career of the men and women whose portraits they there saw. That is the kind of thing I meant; but teachers cannot teach everything.

*Mr. Woodall.*

2529. You dropped an observation just now which I do not know that I appreciated—you said that if you were asked you could make a selection of children who might make profitable visits to the Museum. Ought not the suggestion to come from you rather than be made to you?—The suggestions generally come from the people who have the things to show; when

0.5—11.

*Mr. Woodall*—continued.

Toynbee Hall has an exhibition of pictures they send me an invitation.

2530. Is it not within your knowledge that it is a common thing for selections to be made from children attending the elementary schools who are sent very much in the way you describe to popular exhibitions in the country?—Quite so, but in a Museum like this where things are changed from time to time, unless I were absolutely in the habit of going regularly to that place I might be unaware of the change that took place.

2531. Is there no way in the local papers or in any other way in which such changes are notified to the general public?—I do not think the local papers take very much notice of it.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2532. I was going to ask you whether sufficient steps are taken, considering the circumstances of the inhabitants of the locality, to inform them of any new collections of any attractive objects that are exhibited in the Museum from time to time?—Decidedly not. Local papers generally live on advertisements, and if you advertise in a local paper you will get a notice in the ordinary printing portion of it, but if you do not advertise, as a rule you will get no notice.

2533. And, perhaps, from your experience of that part of the metropolis, you might be able to state whether placarding a place is not the best, in fact the only effective form of informing the people of anything that is going on?—Yes, placarding is the best form.

2534. And you think that the want of interest in the Bethnal Green Museum at different times, and on different occasions, such as exhibitions is to a certain extent, at all events due to the fact that sufficient advertising does not take place?—There is no doubt that that may partly account for the want of interest in these matters.

2535. Do you think that the authorities of the Museum, I do not say necessarily Bethnal Green, but the authorities of the Museum under which Bethnal Green is, are in sufficient touch with the people of the East End for the purpose of making the Museum as effective, from the popular point of view, as they could if they knew the public opinion on the subject?—That is rather a wide question; they may know a lot of Bethnal Green that I do not know about, but as a matter of fact I have never heard of any of them doing anything in Bethnal Green to ascertain the popular taste, and I do not think they do know it.

2536. I meant to ask you whether there is any means by which the authorities of the Bethnal Green Museum can inform themselves as to what is desired in the way of exhibitions in Bethnal Green or in the East End of London?—Well, I never heard of any attempt on their part to do it; I suppose they could do it if they wanted to, but if they did try to do it I should hear something about it.

2537. Do you think a Committee of advice on the subject would be an effectual means of supplying such a want?—It would be a considerable advantage.

2538. Both to the Museum authorities and I suppose to the people at large.—Yes.

T T

2539. On



13 May 1898.]

Mr. BLOW.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.—continued.

2539. On the one hand to the Museum authorities, and on the other hand to the people?—Yes.

2540. That would be one means of ascertaining the feeling of the people from time to time with regard to the Museum and also of supplying anything in the nature of exhibits which they wished?—Yes.

2541. When you talk of Bethnal Green Museum and the population round about, do you from your experience of the locality understand that the people to whom the Museum appeals are not confined simply within the limits of Bethnal Green, but go all over the East End in London?—The people to whom Bethnal Green might appeal, and to a certain extent does appeal, could be drawn from the whole of the East End. I may say that when exhibitions are held at the People's Palace and they are well advertised, as I travel along that road every day, I see people constantly going even from the West End to see the Exhibition there because it is well advertised, and people know what they are going to see.

2542. Could you express an opinion whether, if a resident in the East End wanted instruction in a branch of science or art which was accessible in Bethnal Green, which it is not at present, in the same way as it is now in the South Kensington Museum, and if he had to travel the same distance to Bethnal Green as to South Kensington Museum, he would prefer to go to Bethnal Green instead of going to South Kensington Museum on account of his going among a circle who may be either his friends or neighbours or with whom he would be in touch?—Well, I cannot say what his opinion might be.

2543. It has been contended that if there is a science and art class in South Kensington, and a man from the East End population wants to attend it, and if he undertakes a journey which is of equal length as regards time and distance to South Kensington, there is no necessity for having special classes in Bethnal Green. Would he not prefer of the two places, circumstances being equal, to go to Bethnal Green?—Well, there is one reason why he might like to go to Bethnal Green, and that is that he would meet with people of his own station in life more than at the other end of London. But there is a second point I should like to raise: I should like to know what point in the East End is as near South Kensington as it is to Bethnal Green; he cannot possibly go from East End to South Kensington with the same ease as he could go to Bethnal Green.

2544. You give that as an additional reason why a resident in Bethnal Green desirous of taking lectures in any branch of science or art would prefer to go to Bethnal Green even from the point of view of distance?—Certainly.

2545. I suppose you are not aware that there was a deputation which waited on the Lord President and Vice-President of the Council of the time—on the 12th February, 1868, with regard to the Bethnal Green Museum?—I was not in London then and I should not be likely to know it. I was not in London until some years after that.

2546. If you found that at that deputation

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.—continued.

the question of establishing Bethnal Green Museum was discussed, and that the strongest point made for the establishment of that Museum was the instruction of the working classes in the trades of the locality, and if you found that that was the reason officially accepted, would it be your view that the Bethnal Green Museum in the least degree fulfils that requirement?—Decidedly not.

2547. In no sense?—In no sense.

2548. Now, in the absence of a library and lecture-hall as originally contemplated in the scheme, would you think that any existing library might with advantage be placed adjacent to the Bethnal Green Museum?—From an educational point of view I consider that the present free library might be transferred with considerable advantage.

2549. The free library, I understand, is not a library under the Act?—Certainly not.

2550. Do you consider it a popular institution?—I consider that the fact of that library being in existence and being so popular has been the cause of their not adopting the Act. They feel that the library is doing such excellent work that there ought not to be any competition in that respect unless it were in another area.

2551. How is that library maintained?—By voluntary contributions at present.

2552. And you think that the library supplies a real want in the locality?—Undoubtedly.

2553. Is it your opinion that in the absence of a library for the Museum, the free library if situated within the grounds of the Museum would contribute in any degree to the further utility and success of the Museum?—Undoubtedly it would be the first element in educating the people in conjunction with the Museum; at the present time the educational side is lost altogether in the Museum or very largely, and it would be a considerable advantage to build a library in conjunction with the Museum.

2554. Do you think that it would tend to increase the number of visitors to the Museum?—I would not say that, but it would tend to bring within the area of the Museum the people who were most likely to profit by the Museum.

2555. What is the population of Bethnal Green?—129,000.

2556. Does the Museum appeal to the inhabitants beyond the boundaries of Bethnal Green?—When there is anything worth going to see people go from all parts of East London, that is if they hear of it.

2557. That is to say if the Museum was made useful for the purpose of instruction, and if sufficient notice of it was given throughout the East End a very much larger number of people would resort to it than is the case at present?—I believe so.

2558. If there were some means of giving lectures on certain branches of science and art, is it your opinion as an educationist in that locality that a considerable number, or rather a sufficient number, of people to warrant the expense on that head would attend?—Do you mean in connection with the proposed library, or with the institution at present existing?

2559. With the institution as at present existing?



13 May 1808.]

Mr. Blow.

[Continued.]

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

existing?—I think the great want of the district is teachers of a sufficiently high class in science to supply the need, that a man would have to go to South Kensington or the Royal School of Mines at the present time to get; you want teachers of that class. If you want them in connection with the Museum you would have them of a sufficiently high standing to meet every want.

2560. If you had more elementary teaching than what you suggest would there be a sufficient number of people who would be glad to avail themselves of that teaching?—The teaching of many things in London, I take it, outside of South Kensington, and perhaps even there, is feeble—especially chemistry. I think good chemistry classes, or classes of that description in connection with the Museum would be a distinct advantage where the teaching was of the very best character.

2561. Can you tell me the circumstances under which the site for the Bethnal Green Museum was acquired?—No, it was before my time.

2562. You are not aware that the land originally belonged to a charity and was left as an open space, and that the local authorities gave it for the purpose of founding this Museum?—I know so far that it is part of the poor's lands, but I could not say the circumstances under which it was acquired.

Mr. *Yoxall*.

2563. I believe your school is near the Museum?—It is within three-quarters of a mile of it.

2564. I want to know whether the authorities of the Museum have made any special efforts to make the Museum useful and available for the elder scholars of your school?—They have never given me any intimation that they have; they may have had that in their minds when they had exhibits there, but I have learnt nothing of it from them; all I have done in connection with the Museum has been done on my own initiative.

2565. That is to say you have taken your elder scholars on visits to the Museum?—Yes.

2566. Do you think that the authorities of the Museum might organise that kind of work a little more and afford special facilities at certain hours?—I think so.

2567. Do you find that the exhibits in the Museum are helpful to the scholars in your school with regard to drawing or manual instruction?—At the present time I should say there is very little in the Museum that would have any beneficial effect on a child's drawing; he might get a general conception of the beauty of art from some of the pictures, but nothing definite.

2568. In your view would it be a good thing to have in a museum, such as the Bethnal Green Museum, in such a district, a special gallery of exhibits which would be helpful to students or elder scholars in art or manual instruction and the ordinary natural sciences?—I think so; it would be a distinct advantage, because you would get the best of the children going from the schools, or from the continuation schools, to

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Mr. *Yoxall*—continued.

profit by what was there. At present there is nothing of that kind to my knowledge.

2569. Is it possible for you, or for a teacher of any other school in the neighbourhood, to obtain from the Bethnal Green Museum a series of casts on loan suitable for the teaching in Board Schools?—I cannot say that it is not possible, but I never heard of its being done. I do not think it is possible.

2570. Generally speaking, do you think the Museum is so managed as to be brought into organic connection with the other educational efforts of the neighbourhood?—I go further than that, and I say no attempt has been made to do it. I know of no connection whatever beyond what teachers themselves like to do in taking their children there; there is no effort made to bring them into connection with one another in any way on the part of the Museum authorities.

2571. On the occasions when you and your scholars have visited the Museum has there been anybody in attendance at the Museum who could perambulate the galleries with you and the children and explain and expound on what is seen?—No.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2572. Is it your view that these guides to the Museum, to take children round the Museum, should be provided at the expense of the Imperial funds?—Yes; I do not see any reason why it should not be the case.

2573. Would it not be necessary to provide similar guides in all the local Museums all over the country?—It might be, but still at the same time you employ caretakers and policemen about the building in numbers, and I should think there could be a class of guide which might not be too proud to look after the exhibits as well as to afford information.

2574. Do you know it was proposed some years ago to hand over the Bethnal Green Museum bodily to the London County Council?—Yes.

2575. They have unexpended funds at their disposal, have they not?—Well, their funds are not very large considering the amount of work they have to do.

2576. Do you know they have a very large sum from what is called the drink money?—The whisky money, yes.

2577. And that part of that money is not expended on education at all, but in the relief of rates, are you aware of that?—I know the first time that the Progressives were in power they took the first lot and dropped it into the rate-bag, but I do not know anything further than that. The first lot went in entirely before the second election.

2578. Are you not aware that the London County Council have never expended on education the whole of the annual sum which it has received from what is called the whisky money?—I am not aware that they have never expended it. I know they have appropriated some.

2579. Do you think it would be a proper expenditure of the whisky money to maintain Bethnal Green Museum for the benefit of the people?—It would be a proper thing, but still while the liability rests on the Imperial Exchequer



13 May 1898.]

Mr. BLOW.

Sir John Gorst—continued.

Exchequer the money you are speaking about, if it has gone astray, had better be brought back to other purposes, and leave this Museum still on the Imperial Exchequer.

2580. Why should the Imperial Exchequer maintain a local museum at Bethnal Green, the only place in the United Kingdom where it does so?—As far as I can see, why should the Imperial Exchequer maintain South Kensington.

2581. You cannot ask me questions; you must answer those addressed to you. Can you give any reason why Bethnal Green should be favoured beyond any other locality in the United Kingdom by having a Museum maintained in it at the Imperial expense?—The offer was made, I believe, in the first instance, as I said before, to maintain the Museum, and it is an obligation, and public bodies fulfil obligations, and this is an obligation on the Imperial Exchequer. Having made the offer and founded the Museum they have undertaken the obligation, and I think they have a right to continue it.

2582. There are a good many educational institutions and organisations in the East End of London, are there not?—Yes.

2583. Do you know anything of Oxford House?—I do.

2584. Do you think that the Oxford House people might have classes, and use the Museum for the purpose of higher instruction?—They might, but the Oxford House people would not know much about boots and shoes or cabinet-making. You might get a man like Mr. Ashby, of Essex House, who is an authority on furniture, to lecture or advise, but Oxford House people would not know much about furniture or boots and shoes. They might know a little bit about old china.

2585. Is there anybody in the East End of London who could be found to give these lectures on boots and shoes?—Yes, there are people to be found who could give them.

2586. Would they give it gratuitously?—I doubt that; besides the greater part of the present exhibits are West End manufactures as against East End manufactures, and it may be that there are not very many in the East End who would understand them themselves, even if they were in the trade.

2587. Do you not think it might be a proper expenditure for some of the County Council money to provide such a technical lecturer to make the Museum useful to the people?—I think it would be a proper expenditure; but I think they can find other expenditures, while the Imperial Exchequer pays for this. It would be a proper way of expending the money, undoubtedly; but I say there are plenty of other ways in which they can expend that money without trenching on the obligation of the Imperial Exchequer.

2588. Do you know that if such an expenditure were proposed in Parliament, the representatives of all the great provincial towns would be up in arms against us?—That may be; that is perfectly possible.

2589. Do you know my friend Sir Henry Howorth would probably denounce us for not making similar expenditure on Salford?—I sup-

pose there is a large amount of selfishness amongst members of Parliament, as there is amongst other people.

Dr. Farquharson.

2590. I think you stated that Government was under an obligation to keep up the Bethnal Green Museum, but they do keep it up, do they not?—After a fashion.

2591. The premises are sufficient for the wants of the locality, the hall is big enough to exhibit what you require?—As an exhibition or a museum, if you like to call it, I do not complain of the building; the use of the building might be very much extended.

2592. The building is big enough to begin with?—Excepting that it has no lecture-rooms; but as a Museum I think the building is big enough.

2593. For the purpose of display of the articles sent down to you?—Yes.

2594. What you complain of is that the selection of articles is not sufficiently appropriate to the locality?—Well, here is a selection of food exhibits in the Museum, if I may particularise, that has been there, I think, something like thirty-six years, and I do not know whether any lectures have been given on that, and that takes up the whole of the lower galleries—that and a few other exhibits that have been there for very many years. I have been in now at various times during the last twenty years, and I do not believe that that exhibit in the whole of the lower galleries is an atom of good to anyone, unless they were to take in some vegetarian lecturers and let them give an idea of the value of those food substances. Those exhibits are practically no good; they are there year after year; it is a sort of evergreen annual, if I may so term it, that you can always find whenever you go. If you were to sweep those lower galleries out and put in something useful then something might be done. There is plenty of room if the exhibits were of the right class.

2595. Have you remonstrated with the South Kensington authorities and gone into consultation with them as to the proper things you think best adapted for your locality? I only ask that because we have had a great deal of evidence before us that the authorities at South Kensington try to work in consultation with the localities as to the quality and variety of the loan collections they send to you?—The only connection I have had with them has been through Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree, the Member of Parliament, who spoke to me some time ago about the question of what exhibits would be suitable, and he is the only one I know of that ever took the trouble to go into the question of what would be suitable to the locality.

Sir John Gorst.

2596. So far as you know?—That is so; I cannot say what I do not know.

Dr. Farquharson.

2597. You have in your locality a large number of able public-spirited men; if they were to combine together to impress their wants on the South



13 May 1898.]

Mr. BLOW.

[Continued.]

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

South Kensington authorities, do you not think you would succeed in getting things better adapted for your requirements?—I do not think so, unless we had somebody at the head of us that was a sufficient power to make even South Kensington feel that they must move.

2598. We have had it it evidence that the South Kensington authorities are anxious to work invariably in consultation with the authorities of localities, and want in every case to send things that are most appropriate and most required, and which would be most useful?—I can only answer that in this way. I have been a member of the Bethnal Green Vestry for eight years. Now, a vestry is a representative body, and I have never heard of South Kensington sending a single point down to Bethnal Green Vestry to ask for information about it, but on the one occasion, which has been mentioned about Mr. Acland, the question was then put before us by the County Council, I believe, as to whether they should take over the Museum altogether. But if they are so anxious they should come to some of the representative bodies and ask them "What can we do?" and I have never heard of it, although I have been there eight years.

2599. Do you not think there might be a little reciprocity, and that you might go to them?—We might go to them certainly, but our opinion is this—that if we did go we should not get very much attention.

2600. Have you ever tried?—We have not tried as a matter of motion, but we have had people coming down among us: we have got two members of the South Kensington element who come down, but I have never heard of them asking what was the great idea that would help the East End.

2601. Do you not think the natural feeling on the part of the South Kensington people would be that if you made no protest you were satisfied?—I suppose it would be.

2602. Would not that be a natural supposition?—They would think so.

2603. If you made no protest against the *status quo* they would think you were satisfied with the exhibition, and that you liked these food exhibits and that you liked to know the albumen and fibrine and other things the food contains?—You may have too much of a good thing; thirty-six years is a bit too much, I think. I should rather have said twenty-six years.

2604. About lectures and demonstrations, your idea is that merely walking vaguely through the Museum and glancing at things in the glass cases is not of much use unless someone is there to direct specific attention to those objects and what their teaching is?—I do not want you to provide so many as would do for all the general public; but I think, by appointment, groups or parties might be taken round if they wished for the information. Of course, it would have to be by appointment in all cases. Then I think they might get something from it.

2605. It would be like the Tower of London, you go down there and get a warder to go round with you?—Yes.

2606. You think that these gentlemen, these highly-cultivated gentlemen from Oxford House,

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

might not have the requisite technical training to display the peculiarities of bootmaking; but at all events they could get up and be able to teach the theory and the history of these various things?—That might be, but it is a very awkward thing for a theoretical man to teach a practical man, and if lectures began to be given on subjects of that nature it would be the practical men that would come, and the practical men would very probably ask questions that would floor the theoretical man at once.

2607. I quite admit that point. In place of anything better do you think that some of these gentlemen might be able to give lectures which would be, at all events, of theoretical and historical value, and which might stimulate the practical men in the study of their craft?—I should put it the other way about and say, that if a man had a special training, like Mr. Ashby has—he is an architect and the head of Essex House, or used to be when I went there years ago—I mean if he gave lectures on furniture, people would know that he knew something about it. What a man objects to is being taught by a man who has crammed up a subject just for the time being, because you never get anything more from him than you can get from a book yourself that you can read.

2608. Have you made any application to South Kensington for lecturers to come down and instruct you in Bethnal Green?—They could not have lectures as they have no lecture-halls. If there are any rooms there they are private rooms, to which I, as one of the public, have no right of admission. They have no rooms in which lectures can be held, and that is the difficulty.

2609. You say that even if you had the lecturers you have not got the accommodation for them?—That is so.

2610. Sir John Gorst was asking you about the special claim you have in your locality for special treatment. Is there any greater claim at Bethnal Green than there is at Kensington or any other part of London? You asked a question in reply why South Kensington was kept up; but that is a central institution for the whole of the United Kingdom, and there you have got a great institution to which you can send up your people from Bethnal Green. If the mountain cannot go to Mahomet, does not Mahomet go to the mountain? Do your people in Bethnal Green go to South Kensington to get the benefit of that great centre?—My opinion is that the number of people of Bethnal Green who have entered South Kensington may be numbered on the fingers of both hands, especially the working classes. South Kensington is not a place to which Bethnal Green people or East London people, as a rule, go, unless they have some special object in view at the time. I went once for lectures on bees. Mr. Cheshire, I think, gave the lectures. That was because I wanted to know something about bees; but in the ordinary way I have not been to South Kensington more than once, I should think, for the last twenty years. When I lived in Chelsea I went, but now I do not go.

2611. If one is so very keen for the acquisition of knowledge, is the distance so very deterrent?—It is almost as bad as going sixty miles into

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13 May 1898.]

Mr. Blow.

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

the country to go from one end of London to the other.

2612. Is not that rather in theory than in actual practice?—I do not think so.

2613. The expense I admit, but it is not so easy to admit the other. I think it is rather more theoretical than practical, the idea of distance in London?—My idea is this—you would be surprised, except for going into the Forest what a very small area the people cover in their daily life in the East End of London, barring the distance they are bound to go to their work. They just go to the Forest for a breath of fresh air, and you would be surprised at the small area they cover, and the children the same, only the more so. I think South Kensington to the ordinary East Ender would be a foreign land.

2614. It is very interesting to visit a foreign land occasionally?—If you have got the wherewithal and the time; if you have to work for your living that is a consideration. I may point out in this connection, if I go to South Kensington for an hour's lecture it takes me three hours to get it; if I go to Bethnal Green Museum for an hour's amusement it takes me an hour and twenty minutes to get it. That is the position in which I am placed.

Mr. Humphreys Owen.

2615. About the age of the students whom you contemplate as likely to profit by such an extension of the Museum as you hope for—are they students who would be going on to the Universities or other places of education of that kind, or are they young men and women who would go at about sixteen into employment of some kind or other?—As to the majority of people in our districts—in the first place, the younger pupils would be those who wished to win scholarships under the County Council; or, having won scholarships, wished to get secondary scholarships. On the other hand, they would be those going in for crafts. Of course, it is a common thing for a boy in the East End to go up into the City for a year or two, or to go as an errand-boy, and then afterwards to come back to be bound for a trade. That is so long as apprenticeship exists, but that is going out of fashion now.

2616. You contemplate they would go with the view of improving themselves rather in the special technicalities to which they intend to devote themselves than for the purpose of general education?—They might go for both, because you can never make a technical education to fit everybody, and, therefore, there must always be a large element of general education in every scheme you develop.

2617. From what you said about the boots and shoes not touching the neighbourhood you went on to explain that what they wanted was to see how things are done to-day, and that they did not care about the history of the craft; it was rather with a view to providing them with the necessary skill for their employment than for forming a general acquaintance with the history of their work?—I think they would be willing to accept anything that illustrated their craft; if you gave them from a practical man the information they required. They must have

Mr. Humphreys Owen—continued.

something to benefit by as well as some theory; but at the same time you must understand that is a different matter because it is not a question of lectures in the way I am speaking of now, but a question of short courses, which is a different thing to a course of chemistry year after year. There might be short courses of boot-making, silk weaving, or anything of the kind, which would be only transitory; they would be short courses altogether.

2618. A word or two about going to a distant place. How long does it actually take you to travel from your residence to South Kensington? It takes me ten minutes to get to Coburn Road; ten minutes from Coburn Road to Liverpool Street; ten minutes to walk across to the Mansion House; twenty-two minutes to go to South Kensington; and then I have to walk to the Museum. If I catch every train it will take me an hour.

2619. And how much would it cost?—10d. return.

2620. And that, of course, for an artisan is a very serious outlay, both in time and money?—Yes.

2621. And what you are aiming at is rather to diffuse the advantages of museums amongst the people, than to attempt to draw people from what are practically impossible distances to the museums themselves?—That is so; it is impossible to draw the class of people we have to deal with the distances you have mentioned.

Lord Balcarras.

2622. I wish to ask you one thing with regard to the quality of the objects exhibited in this Museum: Do you agree with the opinion expressed by the Director of the Museum, that the huge china negresses might with propriety be removed from Bethnal Green?—I should think so without any very great loss to the neighbourhood.

2623. And do you agree that the enormous wine coolers and the huge objects made of pottery and faience that are in the south-east portion of the upper gallery might be removed?—Yes; and replaced by casts, as suggested by Mr. Yoxall; it would be a very good exchange.

2624. Do you further consider that the large model of a vineyard is of practical value to the artisans of East London?—I should think it is of no good whatever.

2625. And the examples of exotic fowls stuffed, might they be removed?—If the moth does not remove them prematurely, I think that that kind of thing is much better displayed in the Natural History Museum, and if they want to see Natural History they can go to the Natural History Museum, and they will have a treat to go there. The expense still remains of course.

2626. These cases do not exhibit any sequence in natural history?—No.

2627. They are mere curios?—Yes.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

2628. Do you consider that some connection between the South Kensington authorities on the one hand and the people of Bethnal Green with respect to increasing the utility of the Bethnal Green Museum is a necessity?—Yes.

2629. And



13 May 1898.]

Mr. BLOW.

[Continued.]

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

2629. And you think that a sufficient number of public-spirited men could be found to form themselves into a committee if called upon?—I think a committee might be easily made. I would suggest that the Rector of Bethnal Green for the time being, or some member of the clergy, some distinguished Nonconformist, half-a-dozen members of the Vestry, and elements made up like that, would make a good enough committee for all purposes, and would contain sufficient elective persons to satisfy the general public.

2630. And I suppose in the course of all these years no suggestions have been made by individuals, more from the notion that it would be a desultory course to adopt, and it would have no countenance from the authorities?—I think the general opinion is that a public department are very hard to move, and that we poor people in the East End would not be likely to move it, unless we had somebody up here to help us.

Mr. GEORGE NOKES, called in; and Examined.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

2634. Will you tell the Committee how long you have been a resident in Bethnal Green?—Twenty-nine years.

2635. Do you occupy any public positions in the locality or elsewhere?—Not officially.

2636. You attend a good many public meetings, and are in touch with the sentiments of the people on many subjects of public interest?—Very much so.

2637. Are you acquainted with Bethnal Green Museum?—My business place is almost immediately opposite.

2638. What is your business?—A leather merchant.

2639. And your establishment is opposite the Museum?—Yes, and has been there for twenty years.

2640. So that without going into the Museum you might know a good deal about it?—That is so.

2641. Would you tell the Committee whether Bethnal Green Museum is regarded in the locality with very great favour as regards its educational value?—I am sorry to say not.

2642. Will you kindly state your opinion on the subject?—There does not seem life or energy or vitality about the thing at all.

2643. What purpose does it serve at present?—I should say none whatever, only for children.

2644. Except as a place for promenading?—That is so.

2645. And as regards its educational value, it has none?—None.

2646. Were you acquainted with the inception of the scheme of the Museum?—It was opened, I believe, just after I arrived in London.

2647. Do you from your experience of all these years in the locality know the history of its inception at all?—No, I do not.

2648. Perhaps you know in a general way that it was meant originally to be an agency for imparting instruction in various technical branches of industry?—Yes.

2649. Do you know under what circumstances

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Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

2631. That is to say, after you were organised as a committee, you would consider you had sufficient status to do the work?—You mean to assist them?

2632. In forming an advising committee?—Yes.

Chairman.

2633. Do you wish to add anything to your evidence?—I wish to add this, that Mr. Lobb was not able to tell you, when the question of a Public Free Library at the expense of the rates was raised that a penny rate on Bethnal Green, although we have 129,000 people, only gives us 1,650*l.*, or at the outside 1,670*l.*, and that would be a very poor amount on which to raise and support free libraries, let alone museums. At the present time the rates are about 7*s.* 2*d.* in the pound, the Poor and General Rates. These were points Mr. Lobb was not able to give you.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

the site for it was acquired?—I believe it was formerly a portion of the poors' lands.

2650. Do you know if any funds were raised in the East End to defray the cost of acquiring the site?—I think not.

2651. Do you know the effort made by Sir Antonio Brady, the Rev. Septimus Hansard, Mr. Clabon, and Mr. Millar, all interested in the East End of London, either as residents or otherwise, to have a Science and Art School and a Library established in connection with this Museum?—I remember that.

2652. Do you know the answer which their representation received officially?—No, I do not.

2653. I will read from one of these representations a short extract, and I will give you the official answer, and ask your opinion upon the claims of the Bethnal Green Museum to have a school and a library. I read from a letter addressed to the Lord President of the Council on the 13th February, 1869, by Sir Antonio Brady and others. It runs thus:—"In Mr. Brady's letter was set forth the promoters' views as to the sort of museum they wished to secure for the East End of London, their leading idea being that it should be educational in the strictest and widest sense of the term. All the subscriptions have been asked for and given with this distinct understanding (*vide* copies of circulars and petitions herewith), and in making over this land to the Government all the subscribers wish to do is respectfully to press the principles herein set forth on the consideration of the Government, feeling sure that they will have due weight with your Lordships in any arrangements you may hereafter make as to this Museum." Then in a letter of the Reverend Septimus Hansard, dated 17th November, 1870, occurs this passage:—"Speaking, therefore, not as a private gentleman residing in the neighbourhood, but as the head of the local authorities of the parish in which this East End branch of the South Kensington Museum is situated, I beg for the consideration of the following request:—

1. That



13 May 1898.]

MR. NOKES.

[Continued.]

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

1. That a portion of the building on Bethnal Green be set apart for a school of science and art, to be in connection with the South Kensington Museum. 2. And, secondly, for a library in connection with the school." The answer to that from the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education was, that "arrangements shall be made for the provision of a school of science and art, and a library, in connection with the East London Museum at Bethnal Green, in accordance with your suggestion." That being so, do you regard the claim of Bethnal Green to have a library and a lecture hall, with arrangements for giving instruction in certain branches of science and art, as a claim which is entirely different from the ordinary claims of other parts of the kingdom?—Decidedly.

2654. Would it be your opinion that so long as these adjuncts to the museum are not supplied, the museum does not in the least degree fulfil the objects of its establishment?—Exactly.

2655. Is there to your knowledge any popular feeling on the matter in your locality?—There is a sort of dead feeling; people seem to have forgotten the whole thing now and they take no interest in it.

2656. Do you remember about a couple of years ago a movement was made to call a public meeting in order to protest against the so-called indifference of the authorities and the inutility of Bethnal Green Museum?—Yes, I spoke at the meeting.

2657. I suppose that the feeling of the people did not find expression on that occasion, from the fact that at that very time an exhibition of furniture and silks was set on foot by the authorities of South Kensington?—That is quite true.

2658. Otherwise, if there had not been such an exhibition set on foot, will you kindly tell the Committee what the sentiments of the people with regard to Bethnal Green Museum would have been, and how they would have found expression?—I believe it is utter indifference; it is past any feeling or interest in the thing at all. You go in night after night and find no one.

2659. Could you give any idea to the Committee as to what way Bethnal Green Museum could be turned in its present state into a teaching body?—I do not exactly know how to answer that; I could humbly suggest how the thing could be made a splendid success after twenty years living in the immediate locality.

2660. Will you kindly state your view?—It wants to be made more popular by concerts and lectures and a military band, and that sort of thing once a week, and you would get the place crammed. That would be part of it.

2661. Do you not think that is apart from the functions of a museum?—Yes, but you have this peculiar class of population to deal with.

2662. What I want to direct your attention to is not so much popularity as the real solid utility of the museum. Do you think that a system of lectures and the location of guides who might take a certain number of people round about when they presented themselves at the gate, would be any use?—It would be a splendid idea.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

2663. You think that would lead to the better utility of the museum?—Yes.

2664. And that would also be an encouragement to hold exhibitions there and to change the exhibits at certain periods, with a view to attracting large bodies of people from the neighbourhood?—Just so.

2665. Do you personally visit the museum very often?—Very often.

2666. Do you ever go there with a view to studying any of the exhibits?—No, there is nothing to study or to interest the people of Bethnal Green.

2667. Do you know of many people who go there with a view of studying the exhibits?—No, they go more for a promenade, if they do go.

2668. Do you think that if the exhibits were such as to interest the people of that district, especially with regard to the particular industries that are followed there, and if it was systematised—that is to say, if a system of instruction either by means of lectures or by means of guides who might lecture to bodies of men as they present themselves were instituted, that would be an improvement on the present arrangement?—Decidedly.

2669. And would, in the absence of regular classes in science and art, be in some degree fulfilling the intention of its inception?—It would be a source of attraction.

2670. And not of instruction?—I think it would be both.

2671. Supposing, in connection with the present leather or boot exhibition, if, instead of expecting men to go about and see the show-cases there was a system of lectures established, or if there were guides there whose business it might be to take people round and explain to them the exhibits, would it not be a means of instruction which would be very useful in Bethnal Green?—Very much so.

2672. Do you know the population of Bethnal Green?—I believe it is about 127,000.

2673. Does the Bethnal Green Museum appeal only to that population, or to the population of the whole of the east of London?—I do not think it appeals to the whole of the east, because there is nothing to come for so as to interest them. When we had the Queen's presents the place was crammed, and when we had the Prince of Wales's presents the place was simply packed.

2674. Do you mean to say if the place was made useful and interesting it would appeal to the whole of the population of the East End?—I believe so—to the whole of the East End.

2675. And so long as the original idea of establishing a science and art department and a library is not carried out, so long the museum will not fulfil the objects with which it was started?—That is so.

2676. Would you, as a public citizen of the district, regard it as an act of injustice that after such definite promises were made, that scheme should not be carried out?—I have looked upon it as such.

2677. In that extract I read, you must have noticed that there occurs the phrase that subscriptions were asked for, and given, with this distinct understanding, that points to subscriptions being gathered in order to purchase a site?

—I always



13 May 1898.]

MR. NOKES.

[Continued.]

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

—I always understood that the site on which Bethnal Green Museum stands was part of the Poors' lands.

2678. I read to you another short letter from Sir Antonio Brady to Mr. Henry Cole, C.B. It is dated 2nd June, 1868. He says: "I have just received notice that the Charity Commission has approved of the sale of the Museum site as required by the Act we obtained for its acquirement. All, therefore, that now remains to be done to complete this business is to pay for the land, and, that no time may be lost, deeds are being prepared for approval. We have very nearly sufficient money subscribed or promised." That is to say that the local people of Bethnal Green and the East End acquired this site on which the Museum is situated by payment of money?—Yes.

2679. And would you consider that the locality has a special claim to require the fulfilment of the original complete scheme of the Museum?—I do; I feel very strongly on the point.

2680. In the absence of such a library would you be in favour of placing any existing library contiguous to, or upon the grounds of, the Museum?—I think that would be the very thing that would help the Museum more than anything.

2681.—There is a Free Library in Bethnal Green?—Yes, but it wants a lot of finding.

2682. You mean to say it is not in a locality which is prominently before the public?—It is in an awful locality.

2683. Is it a successful library?—It is, for the position it is in; it wants developing—bringing to the front.

2684. In what house is it located?—In its own building.

2685. Specially built for it?—Yes, and I might say that I often call in on week evenings and the place is simply packed with the artisan class, men and women.

2686. You mean it has outgrown its original scope?—Yes.

2687. Has the library a reference department?—I believe it has.

2688. Is the library in that department and in other ways useful for the artisan classes in Bethnal Green?—Yes, I think it the most useful institution we have in Bethnal Green, from my experience.

2689. Why is it that the Free Library has not been supported under the Act in Bethnal Green? We have tried it three times and been defeated.

2690. Can you adduce any reason for it?—I think we are so heavily rated that the people will not take it on.

2691. And they are too poor to pay additional rates?—That is so.

2692. But that is no proof that a Free Library is not required or necessary?—No, none whatever.

2693. In fact, on the other hand, the attendance at the library proves that it is an institution that is not only popular but an absolute necessity to the locality?—Yes, and very much appreciated.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

2694. Do you think that if that library were placed within easy reach of the Bethnal Green Museum, both the institutions might contribute to one another's further success?—I think decidedly so.

2695. Do you think that those who frequent the library might be induced to go to the Bethnal Green Museum for the purpose of study?—I do; they would go from one building to the other.

2696. And do you think that in case of some persons, at all events—that is to say an appreciable number of persons—the illustrations, which the Museum exhibits might furnish to your study in the library would be an advantage to them?—It would be a great source of interest; they could go and see the object, and trace its origin.

2697. And in that way the library would be if placed upon the grounds of the Bethnal Green Museum, a source of increasing utility to the Museum?—Yes.

2698. And also it would in some degree make up for the great deficiency which at present exists by the absence of the library at first contemplated?—That is just the question.

2699. You know the locality very well, so far as I understand?—Yes.

2700. Would, in your opinion, the construction of a library under proper conditions—that is to say a properly adopted plan—in any way interfere with the convenience or the outside ornamental appearance of the Museum?—I think it would improve it on that blank space at the corner.

2701. You think there is enough space about the Museum for the purpose?—Yes; there is a great deal of space that would be most eminently suitable and adapted for it.

2702. So that on the one hand in the absence of a great library in Bethnal Green, and on the other in the absence of the library promised by Government to be built in connection with the Bethnal Green Museum, the situation of the Free Library on the grounds of the Museum would be a distinct advantage?—It would; it would be a great boon to the poor people of the East End.

2703. Are you aware that in 1870 Sir Richard Wallace made a proposal that the fees charged to the visitors who saw his collections, and which amounted to about £2,000, should be utilised for the purpose of establishing a Free Library?—I am aware of that.

2704. And that proposal was not accepted?—Quite so.

2705. So that, speaking altogether from the point of view of those who take an interest in the Museum from outside as well as from the point of view of those who are resident in the locality, the want of a library as an adjunct to the Museum is keenly felt?—It is, indeed; that is just the point.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next,  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
 1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 13th May 1898.*

<i>Mr John Lobb</i>	-	-	-	-	p. 143
<i>Mr. Charles Barkwith Blow</i>	-	-	-	-	p. 150
<i>Mr. George Nokes</i>	-	-	-	-	p. 157

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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Box No. 11  
Spencer

97.B.39.

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

### 12.

## Select Committee on *Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the  
Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

*Tuesday, 17th May 1898.*

[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]



*Tuesday, 17th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir John Gorst.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Platt Higgins.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Reverend THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY, called in; and Examined.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2706. Your experience of the East End of London extends now over some years?—Over nine years.

2707. I need not ask whether you are well acquainted with the educational wants of the locality?—Yes; my nine years' residence in Bethnal Green, of course, made me know the wants of the locality very well.

2708. You were the Head of Oxford House?—Yes. That is about a quarter of a mile from the museum. Our largest institution connected with the house was about 50 yards off the museum; the University Club.

2709. You are acquainted with the sentiments as well as the educational wants of the population all round in that district?—I think I may say I am.

2710. I suppose you know Bethnal Green Museum well?—Very well, by sight.

2711. Would your Lordship kindly tell the Committee whether the Bethnal Green Museum does any useful work in the locality?—Well, I was anxious to come here in the course of your investigation, because it has always seemed to me as a lost opportunity, the Bethnal Green Museum. It has got splendid buildings, but it is clearly out of touch at present with the people, and I could never see why it should not be brought more in touch with the needs of the locality.

2712. Are you acquainted with the history of the original inception of Bethnal Green Museum?—No, I am not.

2713. But I suppose your Lordship knows, as a matter of local history, that the museum was intended to be an educational institution for the locality?—So I always understood.

2714. And that as part of its original plan it included a science and art department and a library?—I have heard so.

2715. In order to make this point somewhat clear, it being a matter of rather old history, I shall read here a few sentences from a Parliamentary paper which includes correspondence, and a report of a deputation which waited on the then Lord President of the Council. One of

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

the speakers of this deputation said, "I think that the claims of the East, on behalf of the working classes to have a museum as a place of continuous resort, are very strong." Another speaker said, "The time has arrived in the history of this country when the working classes have not the slightest objection that they should be educated by the Government." If, as a result of this deputation, it was acknowledged that the Bethnal Green Museum was intended mainly for the purpose of giving instruction adapted to the particular trades of the locality in which it was established, would you consider that the Bethnal Green Museum has fulfilled that object?—It has fulfilled none of those objects; I have no hesitation in saying so.

2716. From your own experience, both of the museum and the locality, and of the conditions of the population, is it your opinion that it is ever likely to, under present circumstances?—Not without a complete change in the way in which it is carried on.

2717. Will you kindly explain what you mean by a change?—I think it might be made much more popular in many ways. I myself have tried the experiment of taking groups of working men, for instance, to the British Museum; I have taken 50 men; the whole place has been lighted up for me in the evenings. The head of the museum, Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, has given popular lectures on Egypt, and various other things, and with the greatest interest to the working men, who enjoy the lectures thoroughly; but nothing of the sort, except during the last 12 months, when I must make an exception since our new head, who has tried his best to popularise it to a certain extent, Mr. Parkinson, nothing of the sort has been attempted, in my memory, with the Bethnal Green Museum.

*Chairman.*

2717\*. That is now being attempted?—When Mr. Parkinson came I had a long talk with him, and at my suggestion partly, and partly at the suggestion of others who were interested, I have taken one or two groups of working men on Saturday



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

Saturday afternoons round the museum, and he has given us lectures upon these new exhibitions which have been started lately, the Leather and the Furniture Exhibitions. My own idea is that that little experiment might be indefinitely multiplied, and it might be made an educational centre of very great value. I should say change the exhibits; we have had those exhibits there for years and years, and the only thing they take any interest in is the convicts' food, what the convicts had in prison; there was a little exhibition of this, and it was the only thing, I found, that a Bethnal Green man had ever seen or known of at all.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

2718. In order to carry such experiments further, would it not be necessary to have more means at the disposal of the superintendent of the Bethnal Green Museum than are existing at present?—Certainly. For instance, a suggestion of ours at a popular meeting there, of popular lectures, was defeated by the fact that no money was forthcoming for doing it; and we were told we might do it if we raised a popular subscription to carry it on; but we were unable to do that, because there are so many other things to subscribe to in the locality.

*Chairman*.

2719. You wanted the money to come from the Exchequer?—We certainly want more money if it is to be popularised, because these things cost a certain amount of money, no doubt.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

2720. And in view of the fact that the original idea of the Bethnal Green Museum included these teaching agencies, and also in view of the fact that the site for the museum was provided by a subscription raised at the time to purchase the land which was under the control of a charity, you think that the population of the East End had a sort of claim on the Government for such expenditure?—I think so; I think that they would have a certain claim.

2721. Have you felt the want of a library in connection with that museum; when I say you, I mean your Lordship has great means of becoming acquainted with the views of the people round about there; do you think in that view a library has been badly wanted in connection with the museum?—It would be a good thing to have one in connection with it, no doubt.

2722. If the original idea of a library could not be carried out by Government, would it be in your opinion an advisable thing to place any existing library contiguous to or on the grounds of the museum?—If it could be managed.

2723. Is there any library in Bethnal Green which would answer that purpose?—There is Bethnal Green Free Library.

2724. Is it not maintained by the rates?—No.

2725. Can you tell the Committee why the people refused to maintain it from the rates?—They thought it was too poor a parish to support it; I fancy that was the reason. I believe it has been three times rejected.

0.5—12.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

2726. But apart from that the library is a popular one, and also a necessary institution in the locality?—Yes; I have myself, for instance, refused to join an agitation for the Public Libraries Act, because I thought it would be unfair to this library that had been going on for so long.

2727. The Free Library?—Yes. I felt it had been got up by those people who were managing it at considerable self-sacrifice, and I think if its building for instance could be better and put in a better place, it would answer the purpose, if it could be moved into a more central place than it is. It is hidden away at present.

2728. If the library was in connection with and contiguous to the museum, would the one institution support the other and further its utility?—I think it certainly would, and it would be one of the most central places in Bethnal Green.

2729. I suppose your Lordship is not aware what the expense is, possibly, of maintaining the Bethnal Green Museum from year to year?—No, I have no idea.

2730. If I told you that it cost 4,000*l.* a year to maintain that museum, would you think that the results which the museum show, either from a popular or from a utilitarian point of view, justify such a large expenditure?—I should not have thought we got the money's worth for the people of Bethnal Green, certainly.

2731. Now I shall draw your attention to an effort made in 1870 by one of the promoters of the Bethnal Green Museum to secure from Government the fulfilment of the original object of the museum by having a science and art department and a library attached to it. The Rev. Septimus Hansard, who, I believe, was rector of Bethnal Green in 1870, in a letter which he addressed to Mr. Henry Cole officially, to place before the Committee of Council on Education, states: "That a portion of the building on Bethnal Green be set apart for a school of science and art, to be in connection with South Kensington Museum. And, secondly, for a library in connection with the school. A school and library thus connected with South Kensington Museum, managed indirectly, if not directly, by the Science and Art Department of the Committee of Council on Education, would be supplied with the best teachers, books, and educational appliances, and would from its size and character be regarded as the central school of science and art for this end of London," and in answer to that, Mr. Henry Cole, replying on behalf of the Lords of Committee of Council on Education, said they had "been pleased to direct that arrangements shall be made for the provision of a school of science and art, and a library, in connection with the East London Museum at Bethnal Green, in accordance with your suggestion." That undertaking not having been so far fulfilled, would it be, in your Lordship's opinion, desirable that that scheme should be carried out in order to make the Bethnal Green Museum at all useful in that part of the Metropolis?—In other words, I understand the question to be that the establishment of a library there would fulfil the original part of the scheme. Of course I did not know myself what the



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

the original scheme was, but now you have stated it I think that it would.

2732. And that without such adjuncts it is perfectly useless?—Without being worked in a more popular way it is perfectly useless; I do not think I should go so far as to say that without a library at all it would be perfectly useless, but I think the library would help on its usefulness very much.

2733. As it is at present, whatever may be done in future, it is scarcely a place of instruction, although it may be in some sense a place of amusement and pleasure?—Yes, I should be prepared to say that.

2734. Do you know much about the exhibitions recently held in the Bethnal Green Museum?—I went to the two, the one on furniture and the one on leather work, and they were of interest certainly to a certain class of the population. I took in myself 30 or 40 men to see each of them, and they were interested. I got the head of the museum to take us all round and lecture and explain it, but very few would have gone unless I had taken them myself. They were not advertised enough for one thing.

2735. Do you think that in the East End it is a necessary thing for the success of any project of that description that it should be largely advertised?—Yes.

2736. Not merely in the papers, but by placarding in the neighbourhood?—My experience is that to get people to come to anything in the East End, and to grasp what is going on, you must not spare the advertising, whatever it is.

2737. That is, the conditions of drawing people to any such scheme are not the same in the East End as they are in the West End?—No.

2738. And if there is an omission of properly advertising the exhibitions, such as those which have taken place for the last two or three years, it would be a serious omission from the point of view of its success?—It would be a waste of energy on the part of the promoters; the people do not see the exhibitions as they ought to.

2739. Is it, in your opinion, necessary to attach any system of lectures in connection with these exhibitions?—It would be a material help to them; to see the people wander round the exhibitions is a most hopeless thing; but if they are taken round and things explained, it makes the whole difference to them.

2740. Could you sketch out in brief for the committee's information how a system of lectures could be organised?—I think a series of such exhibitions as have been begun might be continued, and on a Saturday afternoon it might be well advertised that there would be a lecture on this exhibition by some expert, or even on a week-day evening, but the Saturday afternoons would be a very good time, and then with the full opportunity of showing off specimens, the people of Bethnal Green might really be interested in whatever was going on.

2741. Do you think a well got up system like that would have any effect on the industries in the East End?—I think it certainly might; I have found that the best chair makers of the

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

district, Mr. Pickard for instance, who is so well known, were deeply grateful for the exhibition of furniture which was held. It stimulated his ideas, for instance, and there are many others in the district in the trade. Cabinet making and boots are our principal trades in Bethnal Green, and I think it stimulated the trade very much; the furniture certainly did, and they were very grateful for it.

2742. You are acquainted with the Whitechapel Picture Exhibitions?—I am.

2743. Has anything taken place in connection with Bethnal Green to answer a similar purpose, with regard to that part of the East End?—No, and that is a question which touches something I have had at heart very much for the last nine or ten years, and that is, that these beautiful galleries should be used for loan exhibitions, such as take place in Whitechapel, in a very poor building, but which attract 70,000 people, I think it is quite that, in three weeks, during which they are held. The Loan Exhibition is open once a year, in St. Jude's Schools, Whitechapel, and all my time I have been most anxious to have a Bethnal Green exhibition, changed every year, and the museum buildings would be such an excellent place to show off the pictures.

2744. Did you represent that view in any official quarter?—No.

2745. That brings us to the question of a local advisory committee with regard to Bethnal Green Museum. Would you tell the Committee whether it would be advisable to have such a committee?—I think it would; I think that it would keep them in touch with the local attempts and the local needs very much.

2746. Have there been no public spirited citizens in that part of the Metropolis, who have taken upon themselves, in all these years, to make any suggestions to the South Kensington authorities?—I am not certain whether any have written individually. I, myself, was always waiting until I could see my way to get leave to run an exhibition in the buildings. That was what I was waiting for.

*Chairman.*

2747. In the buildings?—To run an exhibition of pictures. I thought it would have to be done, probably, by someone locally; I did make one or two approaches a year or two ago, but I did not get very much encouraged.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2748. Not in official quarters?—No, I made a sort of inquiry whether anything could be done, but the replies I received were not encouraging.

2749. Might we take it, as your opinion, that the absence of any suggestions from local men is due to the fact that they have not been officially called upon to form themselves into a committee for the purpose?—Quite so; there might have been many suggestions made if we had known how to do it.

2750. If they had been so called upon, they would have been really a useful body?—Certainly. The reason I am able to say that is that when I called a public meeting on the subject a year or two ago, there was a considerable response



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.

sponse from all quarters; the nonconformist ministers and church ministers and people in the district all showed they had a real interest, and were very keen that more use should be made of the museum.

Chairman.

2751. Do you mean of the building or of the collections?—Of the whole institution.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

2752. You would consider it a good contention that suggestions have not been made because they have not been thought necessary?—I should have thought that the idea was that it was useless; I fancy the idea abroad a good deal was that there was a *non possumus* from headquarters which stopped any enterprise.

2753. In fact, it was a discouragement to those who wished to suggest anything?—Yes, perhaps that was unjust. I am free to say it might have been an unjust idea, but that was the idea abroad, and spread very widely.

2754. And that idea would be dispelled in case a committee was officially formed?—Yes, I think they would feel then that they had some voice in the matter.

2755. I suppose you are as well acquainted with Toynbee Hall as with Oxford House?—Not as well, but I know about Toynbee Hall very well.

2756. Would you tell the Committee if Oxford House or Toynbee Hall could undertake to carry on any industrial or scientific teaching in connection with the Bethnal Green Museum?—Toynbee Hall would probably consider it rather out of their district; they always work Whitechapel, and we always work Bethnal Green. I do not think myself the present members of Oxford House, any that I know, would be quite up to doing that. The difficulty would be this, that the members of Oxford House are partly young men who are only there for a year, and then pass on; and they would hardly be the people to undertake such work; or, on the other hand, they are very hard-worked men in chambers, barristers and others, and have not got the time to do it.

Mr. Woodall.

2757. Are not they the same class of men who live at Tonybee Hall or take up residence there?—Not quite, in this sense, that there are many more at Tonybee Hall, at least I think there are, of older men than the Oxford House men, and who give their whole time; they have lived there more continuously.

2758. And they are more capable of discharging the particular duties mentioned?—Yes, I think they are; considerably more of the Oxford House men are going to take Orders, and are therefore more in training from that point of view than from the point of view of the questions that have been asked me.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

2759. If you were able to give academic lectures on collections, you would not have the means either at Tonybee Hall or at Oxford House to give what I should call a regular technical instruction in industrial subjects?—

0.5—12.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.

No; at Oxford House I do not think we should have sufficient technical knowledge, and I should doubt it very much at Toynbee Hall.

2760. To impart such instruction having been one of the main original objects of the founding of the Bethnal Green Museum, it would not be for Oxford House or Toynbee Hall to undertake such instruction, even if they were asked to do so?—I should certainly not rest it on those voluntary institutions; it ought to be on a sounder basis.

2761. By experts?—Yes; my experience is that you can get the East London people to lectures if they are quite certain they are by experts who really know thoroughly what they are talking about, but they do not very much care for amateur half-informed lectures. For instance, the Gilchrist lectures, which were got up by the Free Library, attracted many thousands in Charrington's Hall every night they were held—six times. They were by Sir Robert Ball and other really well-known experts, and the people felt “we will really know something.” I went to Professor Wilson's lecture on the brain, which was a thoroughly technical one, illustrated with magic-lantern slides and so on, which people could understand, and that is the way, I am certain, to attract and teach the Bethnal Greeners.

2762. Do many people go to those lectures?—Thousands.

2763. So that you can say from experience that if well-regulated lectures by experts were given they would be appreciated and attended?—And even more; within 100 yards of the Bethnal Green Museum, Oxford House got up University Extension lectures on popular science, which were attended by 600 or 700 every Monday night, and a little knot of about 250 or 300 went on to the very end and followed out the whole of the 10 lectures on Heat and Light by Professor Lewis.

2764. Would a scheme of lectures under the University Extension Scheme be capable of being developed into such lectures as I have been speaking of on technical industrial subjects?—I think quite so; I think it certainly might be done; we ourselves are unable to go on at Oxford House with the University Extension lectures because we have to pay all the expenses of them; we have no funds. Professor Lewis' lectures cost about 60*l.*; well, practically the County Council stood the pioneer lecture, and then the other lectures fell upon us. We had a lecture on electric lighting, a very interesting one; but it wants more funds to draw on than voluntary funds; that is really the truth of the matter.

2765. Are you aware that there is a patent department in connection with the library in Bethnal Green?—I believe so.

2766. Is it made enough use of?—I cannot answer that question; I should not think it was much made use of at present. I do not know very much about the working of the free library in Bethnal Green as it is now.

2767. You have been there?—Oh, yes.

2768. Have you found it crowded with people?—It was not crowded when I went there; it was only on one night I went inside.

2769. At what hour was it?—I think it was in the evening, but I believe it is well used; it is

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17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.

is in a very out-of-the-way place, and that is the great disadvantage of the Bethnal Green Free Library at present.

2770. I suppose the Committee may take it as your opinion that the Bethnal Green Museum as it is at present is not used nearly as much as it ought to be, and that with a system of lectures and a library attached it could be made more useful?—And more popular exhibitions shown off.

2771. More popular and more useful?—Yes, I think it certainly might be made a very useful institution.

2772. In its present state, what do you say about it?—It is a lost opportunity; that is always what I call it.

2773. Is there much of a feeling regarding it in Bethnal Green or in the East End generally?—A feeling, you mean, of affection towards it? I think the feeling of the people is exactly what I have described as my own feeling; they do not feel that it is much use to them at all, but they all feel that it might be made of use.

Sir John Gorst.

2774. I want to ask, in your opinion, who ought to pay for and organise these lectures and free library, which is a necessary adjunct to the Bethnal Green Museum?—I think that the Government ought to do it.

2775. Do you think that the people of Bethnal Green, the vestry and the charitable and religious institutions in Bethnal Green, ought to take no part in it?—They are already very much overburdened with doing other things, that is the thing. Take Oxford House itself. We have far more work than we can possibly afford to pay for; we have to get all our funds from outside.

2776. As a matter of fact none of the local people in Bethnal Green have done anything at all to extend the utility of the museum?—For the simple reason that we have never received enough encouragement.

2777. Meaning by encouragement, money?—Partly money; we have been unable to do it ourselves.

2778. If the Government were to make a grant, I suppose you would spend it for them?—If the Government made a grant the people would be very glad to give advice as to how best to spend it.

2779. But they have never thought of spending any money of their own?—On the museum?

2780. In the provision of lectures?—They provide lectures in other places than the museum; they do not know that they might go into the museum.

2781. Do you think then that unless the Government is prepared to go further and spend money in lectures and schools connected with the Bethnal Green Museum, it would be better to close the museum?—Well, it would be a great pity to do so, because the fact is I do not think it is much use at present, but I should be sorry to say that it was absolutely no use at present. One never knows; I have gone in from time to time, and there are a few people walking about in the museum looking at things.

2782. You are aware, of course, that in other parts of the United Kingdom the people of the locality, either by voluntary contribution or by rates, or by some action of their own, have got to

Sir John Gorst—continued.

provide not only the instruction but the museum as well?—Yes.

2783. And that Bethnal Green is singularly favoured in having its local museum provided out of Imperial funds?—Exactly; but then it is a singularly poor district.

2784. As a matter of fact, I am right in saying that the locality in Bethnal Green does nothing for the museum or for the development of the museum?—Has it ever been asked to do so?

2785. Have I not asked myself, personally?—The locality in Bethnal Green?

2786. Have I not appealed to the locality on several occasions, personally?—Within the last year or so?

2787. And the late vice-president did the same?—Yes.

2788. We have appealed to people in the locality to do something for the museum?—Well, I have only your writing to me about it, and my reply was that we were unable; it was a question of funds.

2789. Your reply was what your reply is now, that if the Government would find the funds you would do it, but that you could not find the funds?—Yes; we are unable, on an income of about 600*l.* a year, to do all our work at Oxford House and also to undertake to run the Bethnal Green Museum. I still hold that it is quite impossible to expect us to do it.

2790. The suggestion was not that you should run the Bethnal Green Museum, was it; it was that you should run classes in connection with the Bethnal Green Museum?—Yes, but we had our own classes at Oxford Hall, 100 yards off, and we use our own halls for our lectures. The people are so unaccustomed to going into the Bethnal Green Museum that it takes an effort to break down that at first. For instance, although it has been in their midst so long, the people scarcely ever enter it.

Lord Balcarres.

2791. I understand there is no other permanent museum or gallery in East London?—As far as I know, there is not.

2792. You consider, I suppose, that the fact of this museum being situated in Bethnal Green does not mean that it solely belongs to Bethnal Green, but that it belongs, being *sui generis*, to Hackney and Tower Hamlets, and, in fact, to the rest of East London?—Quite so.

2793. You have told us that with proper advertising and more encouragement you consider this museum would perform a more valued function than it does now. I think we have it in your evidence already, have we not, that the gentlemen who live in Bethnal Green, in what is called Oxford House, are already too much occupied, and not being experts, would be unfitted to take classes on technical subjects?—That is so.

2794. Their line is not technical education?—No.

2795. And not artistic education?—Not at all.

2796. It is more social, is it not?—More social and religious.

2797. Toynbee Hall has an annual exhibition of pictures, and something like 15,000 or 20,000 persons visit that in a week?—Yes; about 70,000, I think it is, in the three weeks it is open.

2798. And Canon Barnett makes a practice of



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarrès—continued.

of lecturing on them every day?—He arranges for someone to do so.

2799. Is there any reason why the artistic appreciation of Bethnal Green should be smaller than that of Whitechapel?—None at all.

2800. There is a site, I understand, north of the museum which is now occupied by practically nothing but a small cottage?—On the site of the museum?

2801. On the north side of the museum?—I believe so.

2802. That is not a public garden like the ground to the south of the museum, is it?—No, I think not.

2803. Would there be any *primâ facie* objection to moving the existing library from its site close to the railway, to a portion of the site on the north side of the museum?—None at all *primâ facie*.

2804. You are aware that in the provinces the ratepayers in, we will say, Birmingham or Manchester or Glasgow, contribute rates towards the maintenance of museums and libraries. Do you consider that a town of 150,000 inhabitants, we will say Blackburn or some provincial town of 150,000 inhabitants, contributing a rate to a museum, is precisely the same thing as an exclusively artizan district like Bethnal Green, with the same population, contributing rates to a museum?—The one would be able to afford it much more than the other.

2805. And the other, in some respects, could not afford it?—That is so. The rates in Bethnal Green are very high as it is.

2806. That is to say, luxuries can be enjoyed by towns which have a rich as well a poor population, but not by London parishes which have exclusively poor populations?—No; that is my opinion.

2807. I suppose it is not exaggerating to say that the population of East London all over is poor, in the Tower Hamlets?—All over is poor certainly, according to my experience, and according to Mr. Charles Booth's figures too.

2808. Do you think that because a museum, a public Government museum, is situated in Bethnal Green, Bethnal Green should be expected to contribute to its funds any more than because the National Gallery is situated in the Strand, the Strand should be expected to contribute to its funds; or we will say, because South Kensington Museum is situated in South Kensington, that that parish should contribute to the funds of this Imperial museum?—Certainly, it would be perfectly unfair for it to contribute exclusively at all.

2809. I did not say exclusively; I said, did you consider that Bethnal Green should do it if the Strand is not expected to do it to the National Gallery?—I think it would be unjust to expect them to do so.

2810. With regard to the class of objects; we have had some evidence from gentlemen belonging to Bethnal Green that the class of objects exhibited there are not of a character to attract the people or to be of practical value to them. Do you agree with that evidence?—I do.

Mr. Woodall.

2811. Do you regard the National Gallery, or the British Museum, or the South Kensington 0.5—12.

Mr. Woodall—continued.

Museum as having any of the special local features which attach to Bethnal Green?—I do not quite understand your question.

2812. The intention and purpose of the Bethnal Green Museum is to supply the special wants of the East End of London, I understand, in your view?—That is the contention of what it was meant for.

2813. Is there any parallel in that particular between the motive or intention of the Bethnal Green Museum and that of the National Gallery or the British Museum, or the various exhibitions at South Kensington?—I should have thought they were very much of the same idea, all of them; they were to supply the wants of London, and the one is put down in the middle of East London in order to touch that particular part of the locality.

2814. Would you say that the National Gallery was intended to supply the wants of London as distinguished from the wants of the country, as a whole?—No, not of London specially.

2815. Are you not prepared to recognise the very broad distinction between the local intentions of the Bethnal Green Museum and the more national motives of the other great museums I have mentioned?—I think there would be a distinction, as I understand, especially from what has been just read to me that the Bethnal Green Museum was intended to be something which would suit the East End of London.

2816. I gather from your Lordship's evidence that you think that the Bethnal Green Museum might be made more profitable if there were, as an honourable member suggested, a local advisory committee?—Yes, I think it might be.

2817. Are you not prepared to say that such a museum serving a particular group of localities would be better served if it were under some local authority elected by and representing the people, as is the case at Birmingham and Manchester, and many of the towns in the United Kingdom where the Public Libraries Act is in operation?—I think it would be a very good thing. I am not prepared, without thinking it out more carefully, to say. It appears to me it would be inconsistent to ask for that unless the local people were supplying the money. I say it seems to me unfair to ask South Kensington or the Government to hand it over, and to supply the funds, and leave it to a local committee who were to raise no funds to govern it. I think that would be too much to ask.

2818. Your Lordship was frank enough to say that you accepted some share of the responsibility of the Public Libraries Act not being adopted in Bethnal Green?—Yes.

2819. You thought that it would be unfair to the Free Library, established with voluntary management, if it were superseded by one under the control of a public body?—Yes; I would just like to explain what I meant by that. I refused to lead a public agitation on that matter, as I had led one on another matter in the district about certain open spaces for that reason. That is about eight or nine years ago.

2820. But in the very responsible position your Lordship occupies—?—It was when I was only



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

only head of Oxford House; it was when I was merely a resident, just come into the district.

2821. But still as far as your personal influence was concerned you accepted the responsibility of obstructing the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, which would have placed all this work under the control of local representative authority?—That would be going a little too far. I did not lead the agitation as I was asked to do.

2822. I only wanted to know whether it would not occur to you, that if the Act were adopted the present institution, which is doing useful work, and funds for which are raised by voluntary subscription, would be handed over to a public authority as has been so frequently done in other parts of the country?—I was rather assuming that Bethnal Green had more or less made up its mind about this matter; I took no part one way or another about it, but I understood that three times they have said they cannot afford to adopt the Libraries Act.

2823. Marylebone has distinguished itself in a similar manner recently?—Yes. I should have no objection whatever to hear that they had adopted it to-morrow, if it would help on the reading of the people in that district, but, for myself, I said I did not at that time, eight or nine years ago, lead the agitation because I thought so well of the present existing free library.

2824. But you have stated what has already been submitted to the Committee by previous witnesses, that a public museum which costs the country nearly 4,000*l.* a year is practically useless for want of these educational adjuncts closely attached to and worked in conjunction with it?—Yes, it would be immensely improved by being moved into a more central place, that library, and near the museum.

2825. What I want you to see is that this necessity has been recognised by Parliament, and that under Mr. Ewart's Act the local authorities throughout the country, in an immense number of centres, have taken upon themselves the responsibility, by adopting the Public Libraries Act, of carrying out this work efficiently and with general popular assent?—Yes.

2826. But you say, I gather, that the local circumstances of Bethnal Green are such as to discourage any expectation of that being carried out?—Simply because they have rejected it three times; that is what I go by; they have decided that they cannot afford it.

2827. What is the local authority of Bethnal Green?—It would be the vestry, would it not?

2828. Does the vestry exercise authority over an area so large as that of the Parliamentary Borough of Bethnal Green?—It is the only local authority I know of.

2829. Inasmuch as you say this museum is intended to serve not merely the local interests of the Parliamentary Borough or the Vestry of Bethnal Green, but a very much more larger area, the area which used to be known as Tower Hamlets, for example, could you not endeavour to find some other representative authority which could be induced to take upon itself the responsibility of finding the means of carrying out the work which you say is so necessary. Might I suggest that the London County Council

Mr. Woodall—continued.

should be applied to?—Well, I should prefer not to commit myself to a statement on that. I say that I think a local advisory committee would be very useful; but whether it would be better to take the whole thing over, locally or not, I have not thought sufficiently out.

2830. How could you select a local advisory committee which would pretend to the authority which would be given to it if the work were confided to an elective and representative body; there would be that difficulty, would there not?—Yes, there would be that difficulty, and I have already said I think it would be inconsistent, unless the local body were to raise the funds, to ask for them to have the entire management of it. I cannot quite understand what you are driving at.

2831. As far as the County Council is concerned you know that they have, under the happy circumstances which have placed three quarters of a million at the service of the local authorities for that purpose, a very considerable sum which they are expending in technical classes and technical education?—Yes.

2832. I ought to explain that we are travelling a little beyond our reference, but we are only doing so as the Chairman permits me, because we are dealing with this complaint; that you have got a museum which is specifically referred to in our instructions, and you say that that museum is no use to you and might as well be closed?—I refused to say that it was quite so bad as that it might be closed.

2833. One of your previous witnesses went so far as to say that it might as well be closed. As I say, we are instructed to inquire what can be done to improve this museum, and we are met by several witnesses, including your lordship, saying that unless you can attach to it these subsidiary educational institutions, the Bethnal Green Museum is not worth the 4,000*l.* a year which is now spent on it?—I quite agree that 4,000*l.* worth of value is not found in Bethnal Green.

2834. And although you have these Oxford House Buildings in the close neighbourhood of the museum, you tell us that the training to which the young men there are subjected does not qualify them to give this voluntary teaching which you say is so necessary?—That is so; out of the 1,000 men in that club within 100 yards of the museum, I do not suppose that more than five or six have ever been inside the museum at all.

2835. Supposing that the Government, acting upon your suggestion, saw their way to making more frequent changes of the exhibits, and that those exhibits provided or encouraged some system of popular lectures, aided by magic lantern slides and so on, do you think that would serve the purpose of popularising and bringing to the museum the class of people for whom it is intended?—I think it would. I think that is just what I sketched out in the earlier part of my answers to Sir Mancherjee Bhownagjee that that would be the fact, and it would enable others to co-operate and take parties in as I have endeavoured to do myself.

2836. But although you had University Extension Lectures in the neighbourhood, and although you had the advantage of Gilchrist Lectures



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

Lectures which you say have been attended by very large numbers of people presumably drawn from this neighbourhood?—The Gilchrist Lectures were in Charrington's Hall, and therefore were drawn from Whitechapel as well, and Bow, and so on; it was not quite in the exact neighbourhood, but about a mile off.

2837. But they have not had any direct bearing on, or relation to, the museum as a centre?—No.

2838. You said you had from time to time contemplated running a loan exhibition with the help of a local committee?—Yes.

2839. Pretty much as is done at Toynbee Hall, or would you make it more general in scope?—I was thinking of one like Toynbee Hall; it is so well done there by Canon Barnett.

2840. That would be a loan exhibition of pictures only?—Yes, pictures only.

2841. But you know how common it is in the country to have loan exhibitions of various objects of artistic and industrial value, which attract very large numbers of people?—Oh yes; my main idea was pictures, but anything else which would attract them I should equally be glad to see.

2842. And perhaps you are aware that it is not at all uncommon for us in the country to have lectures given by competent volunteers bearing on those exhibitions?—Yes.

2843. Do you suggest that if a proposal was made by some man in authority, like yourself, to the Science and Art Department to promote such a loan exhibition at Bethnal Green, that you would be met by any kind of discouragement?—I have not any reason to suppose that I should be met with much encouragement.

2844. You say you regard the Science and Art Department as assuming an attitude of *non possumus*?—Yes, I say that has always been the position before I met Sir John Gorst in the matter a year ago, but since that time, when we had a talk about it, his interest gave me hope.

Sir John Gorst.

2845. It is about three years ago?—Ever since I have seen Sir John Gorst I have had a little more hope about the matter.

Mr. Woodall.

2846. What I say is that you seem to have implied, if I understood your Lordship, that the incentive should come from South Kensington, and that the Science and Art Department should invite the people of the locality to take action of this kind: Do you not think that the initiative should rather come from the locality, and the representations should be made by you as to the desirability of this or that course for the approval of the Science and Art Department?—Well, we are quite ready to, but we did not know that it was of any use; if it is we are quite ready to do so.

2847. I may tell your Lordship that it is quite a common practice in the provinces in Staffordshire, in Birmingham, and other places where local committees promote exhibitions, to get together certain objects that are lent to them and which loan contributions are often supplied.

0.5—12.

Mr. Woodall—continued.

mented?—Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee and I have spoken over this and we were rather waiting on this Committee. We knew this Committee was coming on, and we thought this would be an opportunity.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

2848. What is the length of time which it takes you and your party of working men to get from Bethnal Green to the British Museum?—I used to meet them at the British Museum on the one or two times I spoke of from their work in the City; we used to meet outside the museum on the two or three evenings I did this with them; but it would take them otherwise the best part of an hour.

2849. And that would have to be taken either out of their work or out of the necessary rest in preparation for the next day?—Yes.

2850. So that it is of great importance to have the museum as close as possible to the people for whom it is intended?—Quite so.

2851. You told us that a library and lectures would be a most material adjunct. I suppose you would also think that conversely if you had an educational institution and a library, a museum is a very valuable adjunct to it?—Yes, undoubtedly.

2852. It would be a very great help to the educational institution to have a museum which would illustrate both art and science?—Quite so.

2853. You have touched on the point of the poverty of your district. I have no doubt the inhabitants of the district are poor, but I suppose that the ground rents arising out of it are considerable?—I have no doubt; you mean the landlord's return?

2854. Yes?—Yes, but it is very hard to get at them; it is very difficult to find out who the landlords are of the particular properties.

2855. And also, there are the firms who own large factories who are easier to be got at?—Yes, they are easier to get at, but they do not subscribe very liberally to lectures.

2856. Perhaps you would sympathise with persons in other parts of the country where the manufacturers and the landlords who are more accessible rather complain that the public money should be given to release the moral obligations of the landlords and the capitalists?—I should be ready to sympathise with them, but I should not quite agree. I can see they may have a little grievance, or at any rate they might feel they had. Well, I should answer them that the condition of our great cities now is an abnormal thing altogether. The masses in East London form an exceptional problem altogether, which has to be dealt with in an exceptional way.

Chairman.

2857. Do you know the Ancoats Museum in Manchester?—I have heard of it. There was some gentleman who wrote to me about it.

2858. I believe it is situated in a poor district?—I believe it is.

2859. Do you know how it is maintained?—No, I do not know at all.

2860. I believe there was at one time an advisory committee at Bethnal Green; do you know what became of it, and why it ceased to exist?

3 A



17 May 1898.]

Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP OF STEPNEY.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

exist?—There was never one in my time, and I have never heard of it.

2861. You never even heard of a tradition of it?—No.

2862. Its fame has died?—I have never heard of it; I have only been nine years there.

*Sir John Gorst.*

2863. Are you aware that at the Ancoats Museum the Owen's College University Settlement give lectures, and have classes for the purpose of using the museum?—I hear so for the first time.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.*

2864. With reference to the questions asked by the right honourable gentleman about free

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee—continued.*

libraries, I should like to ask you if the case of Bethnal Green is not an exceptional one, from the fact of the museum being there, and its utility being greatly affected or impaired by the original provision for a library having been held in abeyance, would it not be the next best thing to help another existing library to be located on the site where the original library was intended to be placed?—I think it would be a very good place for the library to put it there, and it would help out the original idea, according to what I understand.

2865. The original idea not having been carried out, is it not an exceptional reason in the case of Bethnal Green that the free library or the public library, as it is, should have some special indulgence with regard to the site?—Yes.

Principal ROBERTS, called in; and Examined.

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*

2866. You are now Principal of the University College of Wales at Aberystwith?—Yes.

2867. And also Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales?—Yes, I am.

2868. You were educated at a Welsh elementary school, and then at the University College of Wales, Aberystwith?—Yes.

2869. You went then to Oxford, where you took first classes in Moderations and *Literæ humaniores*; you were then Professor of Greek in University College, Cardiff, and you are now Principal of University College, Aberystwith. Therefore you are thoroughly well acquainted with Welsh educational needs?—Yes.

2870. You have formed a clear opinion that museum collections are valuable as an auxiliary to the educational work of the University Colleges in Wales?—Yes, the need of such auxiliaries has become more and more felt in Wales as the teaching work of the colleges has developed, and the recent establishment of a university has naturally brought into greater prominence the wider responsibilities of the colleges as centres of culture in the areas which form their respective spheres of influence.

2871. And there has been a great change in the attitude of teachers of the classics and of literature to art and archaeology?—Yes. For instance, in the treatment of literature and history, in which not long ago the teacher was content to construe his text with the aid of notes upon questions of history and antiquities that arose in the course of his study, he now tries to place the book he is expounding in its context as a living product of the age and country that produced it, and the more he can do to reproduce the life of that age before the eyes of his pupil, the more truly educative does his work become.

2872. I think you are of opinion that the people of Wales, and the Celtic people generally, are specially qualified for improvement; their genius and bent is in the direction of art?—I think that collections illustrating the great periods of architecture and sculpture would do the greatest good in Wales if they were once brought to bear on the minds of the people.

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen—continued.*

2873. At the college of which you are the head there are a very large number of students preparing for secondary and elementary teacher-ships; is not that so?—Yes. There are about 100 students in the elementary or day-training department, and I should think there would be quite as many of the other students of the college preparing to become secondary teachers or teachers in colleges. For the teaching profession in some grade or other the great majority of our students are preparing. I consider that if there were an art collection, a collection of sculpture and casts, and reproductions of classical relics, a university professor would be able in that way to produce a new method in the teachers who would eventually go into secondary and elementary schools.

2874. And that would apply also to the natural sciences?—It would apply, of course, still more to the teaching of natural sciences. I think for example, collections illustrating sciences such as, zoology, botany, and geology, would be of very great value both in connection with the teaching, the university teaching, and also in connection with the industries of the parts of Wales which the various university colleges represent. For example, the district in which the College of Aberystwith is placed is the centre of a very important agricultural district. The college conducts agricultural extension lectures in about six of the Welsh counties which are mainly agricultural.

2875. Speaking generally, the improvement of the existing museum would be of very great value educationally?—I have no doubt it would.

2876. Would you also wish to see an educational museum?—Yes.

2877. A collection of educational appliances?—The Committee will be aware that in Wales there has been established within the last two or three years a very large number of new intermediate schools, and these schools are now considering the question of teaching apparatus and material of all sorts. I think it would be of great value to them as well as to elementary schools, both to teachers and school managers and



17 May 1898.]

Principal ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*—continued.

and everybody interested in education, if they could come to the university centres and see there collections of all the best teaching appliances. In Wales we have now got, or we shall soon have, school buildings and teachers, but we shall also need to be acquainted with the best materials before our educational system can be regarded as thoroughly efficient. I may mention that the council of the college at Aberystwith adopted a resolution on this matter a few years ago to the effect that such a collection of all educational materials connected with secondary and technical education should be formed gradually at the college in order to meet the needs of the district and the teachers in training at the college. Hitherto, however, we have only been able to assign a very small grant of some 10*l.* a year towards the purchase of the merest essentials in this connection. I have no doubt that such a collection would be of great value not only to the college, but also to the very large public who are interested in education.

2878. Notwithstanding the small amount of grant, that does not by any means represent the amount of voluntary aid which has been given to other educational objects, especially to the museum?—No; during the past 25 years for which the college has been in existence there has been formed by the contributions of the Welsh people and Welshmen from abroad, a considerable museum in connection with the college, consisting of geological, mineralogical, botanical, and other collections, and also to some extent containing art collections that are of interest. The collections are not very large in regard to size, but there are some of great interest, for instance, the Powell Collection, which was given to the college about 15 years ago, contains a considerable number of pictures and other objects that are of great value. I may mention for example that it includes small pictures, but still, pictures of interest by some of the best artists, including Lord Leighton, and Sir Edward Burne-Jones, Sir E. J. Poynter, Dante Rossetti, Turner, Herkomer, and other names, and that within the last few months a collection of some very good water-colour pictures was presented to the college by a Welshman who had been collecting them for some years, with the object, as he stated in his will, of forming the beginning of a fine art collection in connection with the University College. The people have learned to look on the college as a place to which such things should be sent. We have already a large room which we call the museum pretty well filled with such things, and we have also ranged in the library, and in the central hall of the college a number of cases containing such gifts as have been given to us in the past.

2879. And you do not suppose from your experience that if more effectual aid were given by Government that would at all be likely to check the flow of private liberality?—I believe on the other hand it would encourage it, and that the people would consider it had become more of an institution, that side of the college had become more of a recognised institution, and therefore would be encouraged to send in their gifts.

Q.5—12.

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*—continued.

2880. That is so far as regards the aid from the central authorities. I think the question of a public museum for Wales has been raised, and that difficulties have been felt at headquarters in consequence of there being no town officially recognised as the capital?—Yes, I believe that is so.

2881. Even if there be no civil capital I think that the university colleges might be treated for this purpose as educational capitals?—Certainly, they may be regarded as centres of all influences connected with culture in Wales. The distribution of the country geographically is such that it is difficult to get at each district from one point, but the University College centres are so placed that they really do touch the whole country from end to end. I have no doubt that the establishment of a museum in each collegiate centre would at any rate meet to a very large extent the objects which would be promoted by the establishment of a national museum. The people of Wales have taken the greatest interest in the educational movement, and the result of that is that they look with feelings of something like affection to each of the university college towns, and they learn to expect to go to them and receive from them higher influence and guidance.

2882. That is so far as regards the claim for greater assistance from the museum grant or from South Kensington. I think you have something to say as to the conditions under which loans to schools and museums are at present given. I think, to begin with, in order to receive a loan, the institution must be either a school of science technically so called, or it must be a museum under a local authority?—We have been considering the question of seeking a loan from the South Kensington Museum, but we found that the conditions were not such as we thought would be workable from our point of view. I might say generally that the restrictions proposed were such as to interfere, in such matters for example as the hours during which the museum had to be open, and certain other points of that sort, and we thought that having regard to our present conditions they were somewhat too stringent, and on that account we could not see that we could very well under the present régime make much use of the possibilities which the central museum affords.

2883. So that to sum up, in the first place greater aid whether in the shape directly of money or of objects of art or interest would be well bestowed, and in the next place it would be desirable to modify somewhat the rules under which existing loans are given by the Science and Art Department in order to meet the special case of the college for which you speak?—Yes, certainly it would give greater freedom and greater initiative to the local authority in the management of such loans.

2884. I should like to have on our notes the present number of students in the college; that is 407, is it not?—Yes.

2885. And of those, 166 are studying for being teachers other than elementary, and 100 studying for being elementary teachers?—Yes.

2886. And a considerable number of the others



17 May 1898.]

Principal ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*—continued.

others are working for the learned professions, either for the ministry or the legal or medical profession, and so on?—Yes.

2887. Further bearing on the fitness of Aberystwith as a centre, there is a large secondary school there, a county school under the Act, with about 70 boys and something like 200 students in private adventure schools?—Yes.

2888. There are also a number of other county schools within easy reach by rail?—Yes.

2889. Practically not much further off than the British Museum is from Bethnal Green?—As regards time of reaching it.

2890. And almost the same as regards expense?—Yes.

2891. And there are also many elementary schools of a successful character?—There are some particularly successful elementary schools in the country districts around the college, for example, in Talybont and Llanarth in Cardiganshire there have been children from the elementary schools.

2892. These elementary schools, which are close within the sphere of action of the college, educate the children to such an extent that obviously a museum would be a very useful adjunct to their education; they are not merely learning the three R's, but education of a higher kind?—Yes; they do a great deal of work in these small country schools in connection with the Science and Art Department. Some of the best results, I believe it will be found on looking into the Reports of the department, have been got from small country schools in Cardiganshire, and other Welsh counties. I was going to mention that pupils of these schools pass the university matriculation examination direct from the school, and that one of the pupils of the Llanarth school I mentioned has just obtained the eighth position in the Queen's Scholarship list for the whole kingdom, showing that excellent work is being done by these small country schools, and the pupils could, upon the establishment of a museum within reach of them, be brought periodically to the educational centre of their district, and be interested by proper guidance in such objects as they would see there. I may also mention that the college comes into connection with the small country districts by means of extension lectures that are carried on even in very small villages in Wales in the main at present on matters connected with agriculture. The college has lectured in six counties of Wales on agricultural subjects, such as dairying, and all sorts of questions connected with agriculture.

Chairman.

2893. How do you connect that with the museum?—In this way, that I think such a museum would be a place from which specimens could be taken by accredited lecturers for the illustration of their extension lectures in country districts. That is one of our great needs at the present time from experience—the absence of illustrative material to take to the doors of the people in this way.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2894. Have you ever made any representations to the Science and Art Department as to

Sir *John Gorst*—continued.

a modification of the conditions upon which loans are made?—No, we have not.

2895. Would it not be a good thing if you did?—Yes.

2896. I understand you did not take any loans, because you did not like the conditions?—Yes.

2897. Would it not be as well to let the department know what your objection is, and see whether that could not be removed?—Yes, I think that would be the proper course.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2898. You do not consider that when the Government spends hundreds of thousands a year on one of its departments, it is the duty of the Government, or of that department to make inquiries to find out what the localities need?—Yes, I think much more in that direction might be done; I have not been accustomed, I may say, to look to the central departments as sources of initiative and encouragement of education, to the extent that ought to be the case. I consider that the establishment of such a library in connection with the Education Department, as has been recently established, is a step of the utmost value, and that in many other directions the local authorities might be taught to look to the central department for encouragement.

2899. It is rather the province of a central department which spends three quarters of a million a year to direct, guide, and assist?—I should think it ought to be part of the province of such a department.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2900. Still you never have told them your objection?—We approached the South Kensington Department with a view of seeing what their rules and conditions were, and we found these rules and conditions so impracticable that we could not go forward any further.

2901. Do you not know those are the rules and conditions under which scores of museums up and down the United Kingdom receive loans?—Not, I think, of the character of the museum we possess. I am aware they are used by a large number of schools, and other institutions.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2902. You did make inquiries and were not satisfied?—I cannot say that we were not satisfied.

2903. The result of those inquiries was, that you did not think it worth while to ask for loans?—We thought that the rules were such as to make the present system inoperative as regards ourselves.

2904. There are museums in Wales. Are you aware that during the year 1895 the museum at Newport received a loan from South Kensington?—Yes; I believe that Aberystwith itself, the town of Aberystwith, has received a loan; it is one of the towns that have received loans in the past.

2905. Is there a museum in Aberystwith?—There is a School of Art.

2906. I am



17 May 1898.]

Principal ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarras*—continued.

2906. I am speaking of museums?—No; there is only the College Museum; there have been no museum loans.

2907. What is the population of Cardiff?—About 170,000, I believe.

2908. Do you consider that it is very much use to Cardiff, which has got a museum and library, that during the year 1895 the Department sent down a selection of objects of art, and left them there for six days only?—I should think it was of no use at all.

2909. Would that be in your opinion of much educational value?—I should not think it would. Of course if it were for a special object, it might be of use.

2910. Do you think that towns of the importance of Swansea, Tenby, Merthyr Tydvil, Carnarvon, Denbigh, and I have no doubt other towns of importance in Wales, are sufficiently populous and anxious to improve their technical, artistic, and scientific education, to make it worth while for loans to be sent to them?—Yes, I should think so.

2911. Are you aware that none of those towns I have mentioned received loans during the year 1895?—I was not aware of that.

2912. Will you take it from me?—Certainly.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2913. Do you know whether they asked for them or not?—No, I do not.

Lord *Balcarras*.

2914. Have you got a geological museum in Wales?—We have a geological museum in connection with the college to which I belong.

2915. That is a private museum?—It would be a semi-private museum; the college is a public institution.

2916. There is no museum like the museum at Jermyn-street or the museum in Dublin, which illustrates the geology of the country?—Only on a very small scale, but nothing like the scale or extent of the museums you have mentioned.

2917. With regard to the difficulty of establishing a more or less central museum in Wales, the academic objection that is put forward as to what the capital of Wales is, do you imagine that assuming a serious suggestion were made that such a museum should be established, there would be any difficulty in Wales in deciding where it should be located?—No, I do not think there would.

2918. Do you imagine Wales could agree whether Cardiff, Swansea, or Bangor should be the capital?—I do not think that would present any difficulties, if it were presented to a Welsh authority for solution.

Mr. *Woodall*.

2919. You mentioned incidentally just now that there was a school of art at Aberystwith. Is that in any way connected with the university college?—It is connected in respect of the normal students in training at the college, but not otherwise connected.

2920. It is under the management of a committee independent of the college?—Yes.

2921. Has that school of art ever enjoyed the 0.5—12.

Mr. *Woodall*—continued.

advantage of some of the loan exhibitions under the circulation system, from South Kensington?—I believe it has received help, in some way, from the South Kensington department.

2922. But you do not know of any difficulty which would prevent Aberystwith, through the school of art, enjoying the advantage of objects on circulation?—No, I do not think there would be.

2923. So that, as far as the school of art is concerned, it is not necessary for them to make representations to the department, with a view to the modification of the present rules?—No, I have been speaking of something much larger and wider, I need not say, that the particular school of art that is at present going on in Aberystwith.

2924. I take it your evidence has been very important, as showing the Committee what, in your judgment, is the bearing of museums and their value in relation to education; but there is a sort of fraternal relation between the school of art and the university college at Aberystwith, so that your students at the college might have the advantage of any selection of examples sent down to the school of art?—Yes, I believe so; the teacher of the science and art school of the town is also the teacher of the normal students at the college, and in that way they would be able to help.

Chairman.

2925. What is the income, at present, of the Aberystwith College?—£4,000 a year.

2926. Is that a grant from the Government?—Yes.

2927. But you have other receipts, from investments, for example?—Oh, yes; we have about 13,000*l.* by way of endowment, which gives a certain annual income of about 500*l.* a year.

2928. What is the total income you have now; the report we had before Parliament was in 1896, but that is becoming a remote period?—The total income is about 8,000*l.* from all sources. There is a general grant of 4,000*l.*, and then there is a grant towards the maintenance of the day training department, and there is also a grant from the Board of Agriculture, towards helping to maintain the agricultural department.

2929. And you have certain receipts from fees?—We also have about 3,000*l.* per annum from fees. The students' fees are very low, but the income from that, however, has been considerable.

2930. You have some subscriptions?—Yes.

2931. What is the total income about?—I think it would be between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.* per annum.

2932. The total income, according to the return which I have in my hand, bringing up the account to the 30th June 1895, was something a little less than 10,000*l.*?—I may be wrong; I should have said it was between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.*, but I may be understating it.

2933. But roughly speaking that is your income?—That is so.

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2934. Is



17 May 1898.]

Principal ROBERTS.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

2934. Is the number of your students increasing?—Yes, it has increased within the last seven years from about 150 to 407. We have, in addition to that, a certain number of students who come up for short periods; there have been

*Chairman—continued.*

44 students this year who came for periods of from seven to 14 weeks to receive instruction in agriculture only. The regular students are just over 400.

Professor JAMES J. DOBBIE, M.A., D.Sc., called in; and Examined.

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*

2935. You are a Master of Arts of Glasgow and Doctor of Science of Edinburgh, and are now Professor of Chemistry in the University College of North Wales at Bangor?—Yes.

2936. When you were at Glasgow you had considerable experience in the Hunterian Museum there, in classifying and labelling specimens?—Yes.

2937. And you were lecturer in mineralogy there?—Yes.

2938. Since you came to Bangor you have taken the principal part in the arrangement of the museum at the college there?—Yes.

2939. I think I need not take you through a good deal of this evidence as regards the advantages to teaching of a museum; we may take it that you confirm Principal Roberts on those points?—That is so.

2940. This point, I think, was not put to Principal Roberts, namely, the value to the public of having a museum in connection with an educational institution such as yours. Perhaps you would amplify that a little?—On that point I should like to say that I consider it of the highest advantage both to a college such as ours and also to the public, that a museum should be associated with a body of teachers. In the first place, we ourselves require for the illustration of our class work the specimens such as would naturally be found in any public museum. The teaching of geology and zoology implies the existence of collections of natural history just as much as the teaching of chemistry does a laboratory. From a public point of view I consider that a museum would gain from association with a college in this way, that it would be immediately connected with a body, and if you take the three colleges together in Wales, a very considerable body of experts. The museum would have the advantage of their technical knowledge. Without that a public museum, according to my experience, is apt to degenerate into a mere collection of curiosities. Now, in order that the museum may really be of value to the public as a teaching institution, it is very necessary that the specimens should be arranged in proper sequence and in a proper relation to one another, and that can only be done by specialists in each department. The specialists required for the purpose can be had in one of two ways, either by creating in connection with the museum the requisite body of men, or by associating the museums with the existing educational institutions. The latter seems to me to be financially the more advantageous, because you can obtain the services of the existing staff, the cost is a mere trifle compared with what would be involved in the creation of an entirely new staff of teachers; and for this reason, I think the public would certainly gain from the association

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen—continued.*

of any museum that might be given to Wales with the university colleges. Then there is a further grant; that the colleges already possess good substantial museums; we, in Bangor, do possess a very substantial museum already. Since the establishment of the college 15 years ago, we have accumulated very considerable collections, especially in geology and in natural history. I should say our museum now includes, putting it at a low figure, not less than 10,000 specimens, and they are distributed somewhat in this way: We have rather more than 1,000 specimens, anatomical and zoological, which are all properly arranged and labelled according to scientific principles. We have in our geological collection, with which I am more particularly interested myself, between 3,000 and 4,000 specimens, which are all arranged in accordance, so far as the fossils and minerals are concerned, with the principle which is adopted at the British Museum. They are laid out, following the catalogue as far as possible, and those are all exhibited and labelled and open to the inspection of the public. As far as possible we have endeavoured to illustrate the geology of the district; the district in which we are situated is one of great geological interest, and one of great technical interest from the geological point of view. We are right in the midst of the quarrying industry, and, as far as possible, we have endeavoured to make the museum of interest to the men engaged in that industry. Then we have a botanical collection which amounts to about 5,000 specimens, and we have a general collection of 500 or 600 specimens.

2941. Notwithstanding this very considerable number of specimens, I take it that the museum is very far from being such as you would wish to see it; and if you had greater funds, if you had further assistance, either in the way of funds, or in the contribution of objects, it would be of great value to the museum?—I think we are somewhat hardly placed with regard to South Kensington, because we do not come under any of the categories that would entitle us to claim either money grants in aid of the purchase of new specimens, or to claim loans. I believe that grants of money are made by the South Kensington Department to help in the purchase of objects, but I understand they are only made to museums which are attached to a science and art school, or to museums which are under municipal control, or under the control of a local authority. Now our college does not come under any one of those categories, so that we are precluded altogether from taking advantage of that regulation. For the same reason we are also precluded from taking advantage of the provision which would entitle us to loans from South Kensington. Money is much needed in



17 May 1898.]

Professor DOBBIE, M.A., D.SC.

[Continued.]

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*—continued.

in order simply to render the museum readily available to the public, to make it really a public museum; we want above all things, better provision for laying out the specimens. Our buildings are such that we are obliged to distribute the collections over a number of small rooms not all contiguous to one another. The funds at our disposal for organisation and maintenance and superintendence are very limited. We have no funds with which to purchase specimens in order to complete the general arrangement of the collection. You must, in order to make the collections useful, be in a position to complete the outlines of classification and to get the specimens needed to show the relation of the specimens which we have obtained locally to other groups which are unrepresented in our collection.

2942. If I might put it in this way, the State has at risk a considerable amount of money now in the university colleges, and at a comparatively small expenditure it would be able to materially protect that risk?—That is my view; my view is that a very small subsidy to our college would enable us to make our museum truly a public museum.

2943. Of great value not merely to the college but to the public at large?—To the general public.

2944. The more the museum is improved, the more likely your experience tells you it is to get aid from private sources?—Yes. I think of that I may say I am perfectly certain, from our past experience, that as we have gone on increasing the museum and increasing facilities for people to visit it, the number of contributions made has gone on increasing; nearly all the articles we possess have been presented—not bought—and many of them are articles of very considerable value, which would have been lost altogether to the public but for the existence of our museum.

2945. To complete the evidence as regards the actual advantages which would be given to education, the number of students at University College is now 267?—Yes.

2946. And of those there are 98 in the day training department?—Yes.

2947. Besides that there is something like 300 or 400 students and pupils of intermediate schools actually in Bangor?—Yes.

2948. Besides a large population and several county and intermediate schools within close access to it?—Yes; there are in Bangor 600 pupils in intermediate schools receiving intermediate education, or education of a higher grade.

2949. And all of those could profit by getting access to a good museum?—Undoubtedly.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2950. Did you hear the evidence given by Principal Roberts?—I did.

2951. Are you acquainted with the system of circulation?—Yes.

2952. Do you agree with him that it could be effectively developed in Wales?—Yes, I think so, from our own experience, because we have ourselves acted as a lending centre to smaller centres in North Wales with great success in respect to 0.5—12.

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

agriculture. We have made up sets of specimens of minerals, soils, manures, grasses, and objects of that sort, and circulated them amongst the centres round about us.

2953. Do you further agree with Principal Roberts that if a substantial proposal could be made to establish a branch museum in Wales there would be any difficulty in settling in which town it should be placed?—I think that there would be difficulty in fixing on any one town, but I think there would be no difficulty at all in recognising the university as being the educational capital of Wales.

2954. You think this difficulty could be got over?—Certainly, in that way.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2955. Where are the headquarters of the university?—Nowhere.

2956. Then where would you place the museum; nowhere?—I would place the museum in each of the three college towns.

2957. Then you would have three museums?—A museum divided into three parts, I would rather say.

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.

2958. Is it easier to get from Bangor to Cardiff, or from Bangor to London?—From Bangor to London, certainly; I have made both journeys often. It is possible to leave Bangor in the morning to come to London and spend a few hours here, returning the same day; but you cannot do that to Cardiff. May I add one word on one branch of our museum, which I should like to mention. We have endeavoured lately to make a collection to illustrate the antiquities of the district, or rather, I should say, the growth of the manners and customs in our part of Wales, which it strikes me is one of the most valuable divisions of local museums, and something apart from what you can have in a national museum. Museums of that sort have proved, I know in other countries—I have visited them in France, Sweden, and Denmark—of immense assistance in the teaching of history. You read object lessons in the teaching of history, and while not wishing at all to put our little collections in competition with national collections, we can make them national in a sense, and which no national collection here in that way could be.

Lord *Balcarres*.

2959. Do you consider that the rules of the department printed and sent down to you are kept by the department or not?—So far as my knowledge goes they are kept.

Sir *John Gorst*.

2960. Do you consider that the rules made by the department are like the laws of the Medes and Persians, and cannot be altered?—Well, my experience of the department has not been a very extensive one, but I will tell one thing in connection with it which certainly is discouraging.

2961. Will you kindly answer my question first, and then say what you like against the department; do you think that the rules of the department are like the laws of the Medes and Persians,



17 May 1898.]

Professor DOBBIE, M.A., D.SC.

[Continued.]

Sir John Gorst—continued.

Persians, and cannot be altered?—Oh, no; I know they are not.

2962. Now say what you like against the department?—I have no desire to say anything against the department; I think the country owes far too much to the department to justify me or anybody else in saying anything against it. But I should say this to illustrate the difficulties we feel, that on one occasion we asked the department to modify a rule (this is not connected with museums) to modify a rule connected with the holding of examinations. We wanted examinations held in agriculture in Welsh, in a population where there was absolutely no English-speaking person, and the department absolutely refused to consider it.

2963. When was that?—I am not sure that I can name the exact year.

2964. Was it 10 years ago, do you think?—I should think just about 10 years ago.

2965. Will you make such an application again?—With pleasure, if there is any chance of its being entertained.

Lord Balcarras.

2966. Your only experience of asking for alterations in the rules of the department led you to this conclusion, that they were as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians?—

Lord Balcarras—continued.

No, I have said not; I have said that I know nothing to justify me in making a statement of that kind.

2967. Your only experience of having asked that the rules should be modified to meet local opinion, was that the rule was not so modified?—That was so in the one instance with which I was personally concerned in the application.

Chairman.

2968. What is your total income?—So far as I remember it is between 8,000*l.* and 9,000*l.*; or possibly it may exceed 9,000*l.* We have 4,000*l.* from the Treasury; we have 1,000*l.* from the Board of Agriculture; we have, I think, 1,000*l.* from the Education Department; making 6,000*l.* I cannot give you the exact figure for fees, but I think the fees would amount to 2,000*l.* more, making 8,000*l.* The figure must be somewhat larger than I stated, I think it must be nearer 10,000*l.* than 9,000*l.* because our invested capital is, I think, from 50,000*l.* to 60,000*l.*; so that our total income, I should think, must be now quite 10,000*l.*

2969. Have you much room to receive additional students?—No, our buildings are not new buildings; we are very much cramped for room, but we have, as occasion required, extended and made temporary accommodation for them.

Professor HULL, called in; and Examined.

Chairman.

2970. I BELIEVE you were engaged for a considerable period under the Government in the geological survey of the North of England and some other parts of our island?—Yes. I may say almost all parts except the Midlands and the extreme South of England, and part of the West of Scotland, and as director of the Geological Survey of Ireland.

2971. That was under your control, I believe?—Yes, for 20 years.

2972. I believe that when connected with this important service you were in the habit in the course of your duties of passing some time each year in London, and so becoming most intimately acquainted with the Geological Museum in Jermyn-street?—That is so.

2973. The Committee have already issued a report recommending the removal of the Jermyn Street Museum to South Kensington, and we are not prepared to receive any further evidence on one side or another on that question. But there remains another branch of the inquiry on which we should be very desirous of hearing your testimony. It was proposed and the proposal will probably be renewed, that the Jermyn-street collection being removed to South Kensington should be kept entire, and these words have been used. "Due care being taken in the removal, that all the special characteristics of the Jermyn Street Museum be preserved, and that the collection when removed should serve the same purpose as at present"?—Yes, I understand that to have been the case.

2974. I believe that proposition would meet your approval?—I concur in that entirely.

Chairman—continued.

2975. Will you favour the Committee with reasons in favour of that proposal, namely, keeping the collection together?—In the first place the Jermyn-street collection is almost purely British. It is intended to illustrate the paleontology, the petrography, mineralurgy, and mineral products of the British islands, especially of Great Britain. Therefore it is unique in that respect as regards any other museum, and particularly that of the Natural History Department in South Kensington. That collection is one which embraces objects from all parts of the globe, and besides that, as regards the paleontographical collection, that is to say, the fossils of different formations from the oldest years, the arrangement in the Jermyn Street Museum is entirely different from that which has been followed in South Kensington Museum. In Jermyn Street Museum the fossils are arranged to illustrate the former life of the different formations from the Cambrian down to almost recent times. They are, therefore, arranged stratigraphically, so to speak, but in the South Kensington Museum they are arranged biographically, that is to say, a certain genus or representative of a particular formation is arranged so as to show the changes it has undergone from the earliest formations down to the more recent. It is, therefore, an exceedingly useful collection for biologists and zoologists, but not for those who are studying geology. The students of geology, and there are many of them that make use of the Jermyn Street Museum, require to have a collection stratigraphically arranged; they want to see the particular fossils which



17 May 1898.]

Professor HULL.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

which illustrate the particular formations, and that is the system, the object is carried out in the Jermyn Street Museum, so as to give students sometimes from South Kensington itself, from the School of Mines, from King's College, from University College, and those who are studying outside and go in through the London University to get their degrees and diplomas, they use the Jermyn Street Museum, because it is particularly useful to them on account of the fossils being arranged stratigraphically. Now, sir, it has been recommended by General Donnelly, whose opinion, of course, is entitled to great weight, but still we must recollect he is the head of the South Kensington Department, and every one likes to do the best they can for their own house, that the Jermyn Street collection—

2976. Have you the particular answer?—Yes, it is number 548 of the evidence this year. He says, "The great mass of the collection in Jermyn Street forms a magnificent, and the only great collection illustrating English, that is British, geology; and, in the view of some of us, it would be well to condense that part of the collection with the collection already in the Natural History Museum at Kensington, and make it one great continuous collection, illustrating not only palæontology, which is illustrated now, but also geology."

*Lord Balcarras.*

2977. That is not Sir John Donnelly's statement, are you aware?—Oh, yes, it is.

2978. Forgive me, you are quoting Sir Henry Howorth's question?—It is very curious. I thought I had taken it from the report of last year. (*The Evidence was handed to the Witness, and the Chairman pointed out to him where the evidence of Sir John Donnelly on the point began.*) I observe now that this is the answer of Sir John Donnelly: "As I understand it, the collection in Jermyn Street is to illustrate the stratigraphical geology of these British Isles." That is exactly correct. "The collection in the British Museum is the general geology of the world, and treated from the palæontological side. I believe they have recently copied Jermyn Street, you may say so without offence, to some extent; but I think that nevertheless it would be a very great mistake to jam these two collections together. They treat the matter from different points of view, and if Jermyn Street was brought down there you would really, without destroying its present usefulness, have it so close to the Natural History Museum that a person could go from one side to the other, and he would see geology treated from the two different points of view. I think it would be a great mistake myself to break up that collection and sort it out amongst other collections. It has been made, and books have been written on those particular specimens, and those particular numbered specimens are referred to in those books, and I think you would only produce confusion by combining them."

*Chairman.*

2979. How far do you concur with those sentiments?—I concur with General Donnelly; 0.5—12.

*Chairman—continued.*

I was under the impression that he had said something very different; I beg his pardon.

2980. You express concurrence with his opinion?—I concur in that. What I would reply to the question which you have asked me, is, that in amalgamating the Jermyn Street collection with that at South Kensington, owing to their being arranged on two different plans, you would necessarily destroy the special value of each.

*Mr. Woodall.*

2981. You do not think that the Jermyn Street collection will be improved by being supplemented by examples taken from the Kensington collection, for instance, or *vice versa*, that some of the collections in South Kensington Museum might be improved by taking spare examples from the Jermyn Street collection?—I daresay both would be improved to a small extent, but you must not go too far in those directions, because then you will break the special principles on which those arrangements are made.

*Chairman.*

2982. I think it is your opinion that the Jermyn Street collection taken as a collection is of great use to students at the London University, King's College, and University College, and also to those who study at South Kensington?—Yes, because of the arrangement on stratigraphical lines.

2983. Is there anything more you wish to say as to keeping the Jermyn Street collections together?—Yes; in reference to works of art which have been presented or bequeathed to the Jermyn Street Museum, and I really think it is a very important point, because if we deal with them otherwise than as the donors and bequeathers proposed, it appears to me it would be a sort of breach of trust. Jermyn Street contains a number of very valuable and interesting objects of art bequeathed by various donors, but especially by the late Director General, Sir Roderick Murchison; and these were objects which have a great historic interest, because they were presented to Sir Roderick Murchison by the Emperor Nicholas of Russia in token of his personal regard and esteem, and also in reference to the great geological survey of Russia which Sir Roderick Murchison was the first to carry out, and which he carried out on two successive occasions at the instance of the Emperor Nicholas.

*Mr. Woodall.*

2984. May I ask whether those remarks refer to examples in pottery, the Wedgwood ware, and to the productions of the Evers Brothers, and other objects of that kind which have no geological purpose at all?—Not these particular objects which I am now describing, but I refer to their historic interest and the fact that they were presented by Sir Roderick Murchison to be placed in the Museum of Practical Geology, he having been Director General of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, and therefore, having a special interest and desire to decorate the Museum of Practical Geology with these works of Art.

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2985. Sir



17 May 1898.]

Professor HULL.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

2985. Sir Roderick Murchison, being associated with the Jermyn Street Museum, would naturally desire to see them placed in the collection. I am referring now mainly to the collection of pottery, which you are quite correct in saying is a very interesting and very valuable one, but is there any reason, when the Jermyn Street collection is transferred to South Kensington, why those objects should remain associated with the geological collection, when close at hand there is a kindred collection of similar works, which would be supplemented to a very valuable extent by their being added to it?—I understand your question, very naturally from one who has been outside the geological survey and so on; but from one who has been connected with it as I have been, under Sir Roderick Murchison and so on under his command for some years, and knowing him perfectly well, I can state with the greatest confidence that he never would have presented those objects of art, I was going to say to the nation, but I will not go so far as that, but that he had a special purpose. I do not think he would ever have presented those works of art to the nation if it had not been under the impression that they were there placed permanently and were as sacred as if they had been placed in St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey; and I believe that is the view which guided the donors of many of the other objects of art that have been presented and bequeathed. They never had any idea that they would be removed from that place. Then there are the busts of the great founders of geological science and the former directors of the geological survey of the United Kingdom; they are placed there evidently because that is the centre of the great national survey of the United Kingdom. There are very fine specimens, indeed, of the works of art which can be manufactured out of British products, petrological products; there is a magnificent table which would be worthy of any museum in Italy formed of the marbles of England. There is an immense vase of red granite of Peterhead and a great number of other works of art of that kind. Then there are the various metallic ores which are mined in the British Islands represented in their various stages of process of manufacture from the raw material to their formation into statuary, small groups of statuary and objects of art. Those little groups are not intended as fine examples of bronze and other metals, or as works of art that can be constructed out of them, but merely as completing the whole process from the raw material to the manufacture.

Chairman.

2986. Do these objects require very delicate handling?—Yes; that is also a very serious matter to be considered, that many of these fossils, these geological specimens, and the minerals as well as the works of art, require very delicate handling. It is undoubted that you cannot transfer very delicate objects of natural art as well as human art from one locality to another without a certain risk; and perhaps some of these objects might be perfectly unique, not to be replaced if they were broken, or destroyed, or lost.

Chairman—continued.

2987. I think, except something further occurs to you, I may now proceed to the question of the geological survey; an impression has gone abroad that the geological survey of the United Kingdom is practically complete; how far is that a correct impression?—I take it, unless I made a mistake with regard to Professor Judd's evidence as well as Sir John Donnelly's, that he has made that statement, and I wish to traverse it. I refer to question 942.

2988. I think Professor Judd and you are of the same mind?—Then I have taken a question, I suppose, for an answer.

2989. Really it is quite worth the trouble to look at No. 942; it is a question that came from me, and therefore it is a short question?—The passage I refer to is: "That geological map, so far as England and Ireland go, is now completed, although work has to be done in keeping it up to date, and the map of Scotland is far advanced."

2990. Will you read the next three lines?—"I think it most desirable that the collection of fossils made in constructing the map should be kept together, and kept together for ever, as evidence of the nature of the actual materials collected in making the map. They are the proofs of the correctness of the map, and they ought always to be placed so that they can be referred to."

2991. I presume from what you have said that you concur with Professor Judd?—I concur in that statement that the collection ought to be kept with the map.

2992. Please revert to the question I put to you just now as to the completion of the survey?—I believe Professor Judd is entirely misinformed on that subject. Of course the proper authority on the point would be the Director General, but I am sufficiently acquainted with the general progress of the geological survey of the United Kingdom to be able to state this. You are aware that there are two scales on which the ordnance survey is constructed for the greater part of the Kingdom; it is not carried out fully yet. There is the 1-inch scale to the mile and the 6-inch scale to the mile. In the north of England and in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Durham, the coalfields and the adjoining districts, under which the coal formation lies, in fact, outside that also have been geologically surveyed on the 6-inch scale, and the 1-inch map is simply a reduction from the larger one. Now that 6-inch scale, from my personal experience, I can state very positively to be an admirable scale for illustrating the coalfields; the outcrops of the seams and the faults and various other phenomena which are necessary; but the 1-inch scale is far too small. Of course it is a sort of general guide but not for details, and until the coalfields of the whole of the United Kingdom and the districts adjoining, under which the coal seams pass, are surveyed and published on the 6-inch scale, in my opinion, the survey cannot be considered completed. Now that remains to be done, to a considerable extent. First, the great coalfield of South Wales in Monmouthshire, that is in progress on the 6-inch scale, but it will take some years; I do not know how



17 May 1898.]

Professor HULL.

[Continued.]

*Chairman*—continued.

how many; it depends on the number of surveyors employed, and other reasons. Then, besides the coalfields of South Wales, there are those of Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, South Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and I think Flintshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire; all these have not been re-surveyed on the 6-inch scale, and that will be a work of time. Beside that there are districts in the south-west of England, such as Cornwall and Devonshire, which were surveyed half a century ago, when the survey was first started, but on very old 1-inch maps; and they ought to be re-surveyed on maps brought up to date. That would also require considerable time.

Mr. Woodall.

2993. Does the geological survey proceed *pari passu* with the ordinary ordnance survey?—It follows as fast as the means at hand (that is to say, the number of surveyors and so on) will admit.

2994. So far as the actual survey is made, it forms the basis for the geological construction, so to speak, upon it?—Yes; so that, in my opinion, it will be many years before the geological survey of the United Kingdom (or rather, I should say, Great Britain, including Wales) is completed in a manner corresponding to the progress of the knowledge of the nineteenth century, and the twentieth that is to follow; Ireland is completed.

2995. As a matter of fact, I suppose it never will be absolutely completed?—No; that was Sir Roderick Murchison's own view, because it will always require a certain amount of revision.

*Chairman*.

2996. And the advance of science will probably suggest new problems?—I do not think there will be much modification owing to that; but, from new railway cuttings and openings of various kinds, fresh evidence is constantly springing up, and that requires to be embodied on the survey maps from time to time.

2997. Of course the conduct of this survey involves the use of offices?—Yes.

2998. Where are the offices at the present time?—In the Jermyn Street Museum; and I may state that, from the time that the Jermyn Street Museum was opened by the late Prince Consort, in the year 1851, the union of the geological survey and the Museum of Practical Geology was consummated, and it never was intended that there should be a divorce of the two.

2999. Then you will always require to have offices in connection with the geological survey?—Yes.

3000. And you have given testimony that the geological survey ought to be conducted where the museum is?—Yes.

3001. Your wish to keep the whole of the museum together covers the case of the survey and the offices, as well as the case of the collections themselves?—Quite so.

3002. I believe that, without going into particulars, you have found difficulties in the survey when application has been made to you by county councils and so on?—The Director General receives from time to time applications for fresh surveys of districts which have been surveyed a long time ago on the 1-inch scale, 0.5—12.

*Chairman*—continued.

but he is unable to meet their demands as he would wish.

3003. Is there anything else you wish to lay before the Committee?—I do not think there is; I think that very nearly completes the evidence I wish to give.

3004. I wish to ask you one question, and that is as to the library; I believe there is a library in the geological museum?—Yes, there is.

3005. I think some of those books have been taken to South Kensington?—I really do not know as a matter of fact.

3006. Do you consider it of importance that the library should accompany the museum?—Certainly, for the purpose of reference.

3007. Should you regret the merging of that library in other libraries, so as to form one complete library?—Yes; I think it a very special library, the books being those specially referring to geological, mineralogical, and petrological science.

3008. In fact, the student of these subjects will find advantage in having that library alone, instead of having a larger library, the consultation of which might occupy more time?—Certainly.

Lord Balcarres.

3009. Did I understand you to say that the offices of the survey were inside the museum?—Yes, they are.

3010. You are aware that this Committee has recommended that the museum should be removed to South Kensington?—I believe that is the case.

3011. I suppose the offices could be moved with the museum, could they not?—They would have to be; at least, I will not say they would have to be, but, without violating the principle that was laid down at the opening of the Jermyn Street Museum, they would have to be kept together.

3012. Do you consider that the geological section of the Jermyn Street Museum is overcrowded?—I cannot really reply to that, because I have not had information very recently.

3013. But you are frequently in the museum, I presume?—Not for studying the fossils, and so on, but for consulting.

*Chairman*.

3014. You have been greatly in the museum?—I have been in the museum, but not very much in connection with the paleontological collection. I have no doubt more room would be desirable.

Lord Balcarres.

3015. And in that event, do you think it is possible to enlarge the museum in Piccadilly?—Well, I have no doubt it could be enlarged; an architect will undertake to do anything you want in that respect.

3016. What I meant was that the value of the land in Piccadilly being so much greater than the value of the land in South Kensington, is it not much more likely that the Government would look with favour on enlargement in Kensington, rather than in Piccadilly?—Yes, of course, as a question of the value of land, South Kensington is more favourable for enlargement instead



17 May 1898.]

Professor HULL.

[Continued.]

Lord Balcarras—continued.

instead of taking ground in Piccadilly; but you cannot pull down and destroy a collection that has taken years and years to be brought together and arranged, and so on, and put it up again for nothing. I venture to think that the balance of the expense would be in favour of retaining the museum and collections where they are.

3017. You are aware that an enormous rent is paid every year for that museum?—I am not aware of that.

3018. You are not aware that upwards of 800*l.* is paid annually for that museum?—I am not aware of it; I was always under the impression that it was Government property.

3019. Are you aware that 1,073*l.* rent is paid for the museum and offices every year?—I am not aware of that.

3020. You approve of the stratigraphical system of arrangement?—Yes, for British collections.

3021. Has anybody contested that system?—No, I do not think so.

3022. You understand, do you not now, that the Secretary of the Department, though in favour of moving the museum, is nevertheless strongly in favour of keeping it as a distinct entity?—That I have now understood since I came into this room.

3023. I understood you to say that amalgamating Jermyn Street with the British Museum geological collection at South Kensington would be a bad thing?—Yes, I think so.

3024. Can you tell me if anybody has suggested that?—Of course, you are aware that when I came into this room, I understood Sir Henry Howorth's question was General Donnelly's answer. I do not know whether a member of your Committee, Sir Henry Howorth, is not of that opinion.

3025. You mentioned some objects presented by the Czar to Sir Roderick Murchison; what are those objects?—First, there is a perfectly unique, magnificent vase, about four feet high, I should say, made of peculiar silicious stone variegated.

3026. I only want to know roughly what the objects are?—That large vase is one; then there is a burnished steel salver, I suppose almost the size of this table, embossed with gold, and containing representations, carved along the margin and in the centre, of the Damascene process of the manufacture of steel.

3027. Anything else?—Yes; there is a gold snuff-box set with diamonds, and containing in the centre a miniature portrait of the Czar himself.

3028. But those objects are a very small fraction, are they not, of the works of art in that museum?—Of course they are.

3029. And as they are personal testimonials to Sir Roderick Murchison, they might remain?—Yes.

3030. Do you think that that applies so strongly to other works of art in that museum?—To some it certainly does; for instance, some of the busts of the geologists and others connected with the survey which are there, were sculptured by public subscription.

3031. I think they are scarcely exhibited there as works of art?—They are more as memorials of the men who have been connected

Lord Balcarras—continued.

with the geological survey, and with the Museum of Practical Geology.

3032. Personal to the geological survey and its old officials?—And the museum; but placed in the museum, in my opinion, because it was the sort of shrine of the geological survey of the United Kingdom.

3033. But I am speaking of works of art; did I understand you to say that they were principally illustrating British products?—Yes.

3034. Would you therefore, if that be the case, object to moving any such things as you are aware, no doubt, are now exhibited in the museum, as the Indian majolica, the Babylonian bricks, the Japanese wall papers, the Limoges enamels, and the Egyptian idols, and other things which cannot illustrate British technological work?—If they are there, they are very much out of place.

3035. And, *ceteris paribus*, there would be no objection to transferring them to their proper place in other collections at South Kensington?—I do not see any objection; it would leave more room for purely British objects.

3036. With regard to the English pottery, do you consider that to be of greater scientific interest than artistic interest?—Well, I cannot say which is most; it is artistic, of course, but it illustrates, I presume, the Wedgwood, and other pottery you refer to are illustrating the use of British clays.

3037. A perfect example of English pottery is not of such technological value to the craftsman as a small fraction of that broken, is not that the case, so that he can see the strata and the texture and formation of the glaze and bottom?—I really cannot follow that question.

3038. Do you consider those collections are there for purely technological reasons, or because it is the finest artistic collection of English pottery in the world?—I will not say that; probably more for a technological object.

3039. You think it is necessary to have this unique collection to illustrate the technology of pottery?—I think it is a very desirable addition to the other mineral products.

3040. You think the technological value of this makes it worth while keeping it with these other specimens of ores and minerals?—Yes, I should say so; but really it is not a point on which I can speak with any confidence as an authority.

3041. You said, did you not, that it would be a breach of faith if these things were not always kept at Jermyn-street?—That is my impression.

3042. Assuming that the Jermyn Street Museum is moved to South Kensington, would it be a breach of faith to move them from one department into another?—Yes, I think it would violate the views and intentions of the donors and bequeathers.

3043. I suppose the intentions of the donors were that these things should be used for the educational improvement of Great Britain?—Yes, they were objects of art for educating the public taste, but they were left for deposition in the museum, because it was the centre of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom, built for that purpose, and also for illustrating its



17 May 1898.]

Professor HULL.

[Continued.]

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

its Paleontological mineral and other products.

3044. You agree that they were left for the educational good of this country?—Well, I will not go so far as that; of course, that comes in with the other objects.

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.

3045. Is there anything definite in the will or deed of gift to state the motives of the donor?—I am sorry I cannot answer that question.

Lord *Balcarres*.

3046. If it could be satisfactorily shown that these things would be of greater educational benefit if they were not actually in the new geological museum at South Kensington, but in the art galleries adjoining the proposed museum at South Kensington; if it could be shown that under those circumstances they would be of greater educational value, would you consider that we are not furthering rather than breaking the intentions of the donors?—That would always be a matter of opinion; but I might illustrate my reply by stating that, supposing you were to transfer, say, the monument of William Pitt from Westminster Abbey to

Lord *Balcarres*—continued.

some church down in the country, I consider there is something of a similar character belonging to these objects and bequest to which I have referred; they were intended for that place, and that place alone.

3047. Is not the difference that these objects were put into Jermyn-street for the promotion of education, and the statue of Pitt was put into Westminster Abbey for no such purpose?—I do not admit that education in the ordinary sense of the word covers the entire object.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

3048. Is not the museum in Jermyn-street a rented house?—That I am not aware of, but I did not suppose that it was.

3049. It was not specially built for a museum?—Oh, yes, it was built specially for a museum, and as the headquarters of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom. It was opened by the late Prince Consort on a memorable occasion in May, 1851. Sir Henry Delabache, who was then Director General of the Geological Survey, had a design; I almost think he designed the whole building himself for this special object and purpose; and it was carried out under his observation and guidance.

Mr. GEORGE NOKES recalled; and further Examined.

Lord *Balcarres*.

3050. Did you hear the evidence given last Friday?—Yes.

3051. Do you agree with the evidence of those who were before us then, that it would be possible to improve the class of objects sent down to Bethnal Green?—Yes.

3052. Do you consider that, having a fine building and a fine site, the potential value of that museum is very great?—Quite so.

3053. You consider that in future the use of that museum could be materially increased?—Oh, very much; I think there is no limit to it.

3054. No limit to the possible?—To the usefulness of it, if it was put in the right track.

3055. Do you agree with some witnesses, that if a free library were moved on to the vacant space north of the museum it would benefit both the library and the museum?—Very much so; the museum especially.

Mr. *Woodall*.

3056. You probably are aware of the general tenor of the evidence that has been given to us this morning; for example, by the Bishop of Stepney?—I did not hear that.

3047. We had some evidence from Mr. John Lobb; the general tendency, as I say, of that evidence being that, while the museum, as it now stands, is of comparatively little value for the purpose for which it was established, it might be made very serviceable, not only to Bethnal Green, but to the East End of London generally, if certain changes were made: have you ever contemplated the placing of the museum on the same footing for management as the museum, say, at Birmingham or Manchester?—I beg your pardon.

0.5—12.

Mr. *Woodall*—continued.

3068. That is to say, placing it under the control of a local authority entitled to assistance from the central museum at South Kensington?—Yes, I have considered that question.

3059. Supposing it were to appear to the Committee that without the support and management of some local authority, there was no hope of its being developed in the way of practical utility which we wish it to serve, what would be the local authority to which you would confide its management?—I should say it should be a specially elected authority.

3060. An authority elected by the inhabitants of Bethnal Green, or of a wider area?—It might be elected by the South Kensington people.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

3061. You mean nominated?—Nominated or confirmed.

Mr. *Woodall*.

3062. You mean by the Science and Art Department?—Yes.

3063. Does it occur to you that it would be a good thing if it was placed under the control of the County Council?—I would rather see it under a local committee.

3064. Would you prefer a committee of men taking an active part in local affairs nominated by the Science and Art Department, to a committee of the County Council elected by the inhabitants of London generally?—I should prefer the former, because I think it would be more in touch with the working classes of the East End.

3065. You suppose that if you got a thoroughly representative committee to whom the custody and control of the museum might be confided, you might hope to bring together

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17 May 1898.]

Mr. NOKES.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

all these different educational agencies of which we have heard this morning, the University Extension, the technical classes under the London School Board, classes under the City and Guilds of London Institute and lectures under the Gilchrist trustees. Do you think that a local committee might so co-ordinate all these adjuncts as to make the museum a centre of active usefulness?—I am sure of it.

3066. Whence would you look for funds to meet that additional expenditure?—I think we should have to look to the South Kensington Museum; we have not got it.

3067. Already, from the National Exchequer, you receive, say, 4,000*l.* a year, and you think you would require more than that, an additional sum for these extraneous utilities?—Would you allow me to suggest that under new management by a local committee, we should not spend so much money; they would know better how to manipulate the whole thing.

3068. Is it conceivable that they might make the amount of their present share of the Parliamentary grant serve for all these purposes?—I think so, if it were done locally; because we would understand more what was required. My shop is immediately opposite the museum and I have been there 20 years.

3069. Have you ever endeavoured to persuade the inhabitants of Bethnal Green to adopt the Public Libraries Act, and by that means to complete the series of institutions?—We have tried it three times, but we have come off worse every time.

3070. Have you supported it?—No.

Lord *Balcarres*.

3071. Would you have supported the Free Libraries Act if Bethnal Green had not been, probably, the poorest parish in East London?—I should, with the greatest pleasure.

3072. You have no objection to free libraries?—None whatever, but we have a 7*s.* 2*d.* rate now.

Mr. Woodall.

3073. What does 7*s.* 2*d.* mean; does that include the poor rate?—Yes.

3074. And the contribution to all the local charges?—Yes.

3075. Is that a rate unparalleled, do you think?—For Bethnal Green, considering the poverty of the place.

3076. There are many industrial districts in the kingdom which have institutions of this kind supported by themselves, and managed by themselves, the rateable value of which is probably not higher than the rate per head of the population of Bethnal Green, and where the local rates would amount to quite 7*s.* 2*d.* May we take it that you, knowing the pulse and feeling of the inhabitants of Bethnal Green, despair of their putting themselves into what we should call the position contemplated by Parliament, by adopting the Public Libraries Act?—I am sure of it as it now stands, and we have tried everything; I do not know whether the bishop told you this morning that we got together a large public meeting just to get the tenor of feeling of the poor people of Bethnal Green with regard to it. I do not think we had 150 people there.

Mr. Woodall—continued.

3077. But you do not need to be reminded that there have been many unsuccessful attempts made, even in places like Wolverhampton, to carry the Public Libraries Act, followed ultimately by success, where great good has been got, rewarding them for their persistence in this meritorious endeavour?—We have tried three times, but they will not take it. I believe with regard to the museum, it might be made a splendid centre of all sorts of usefulness for the poor people of Bethnal Green, if it was put on the right track.

3078. We want to arrive at something like a trustworthy consensus of opinion as to what is the right track?—One great failing we find there is, that we have no lecture or anything of that sort; there is no convenience to give a lantern lecture or an object lesson, or anything of that kind; there is no convenience in the museum for that.

3079. Is there not in the interior of the museum space which might be partitioned off for some such purpose as that?—I fail to see it; I have looked round many a time to see if I could find anything or suggest anything.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

3080. Even if Bethnal Green adopted the Free Libraries Act, do you think that would supply the originally intended provision for a science and art department, and a library in connection with the Bethnal Green Museum?—No, certainly not.

3081. It would be a thing entirely apart?—It would be entirely apart; the attendants at the free library would not embrace it.

3082. Would the contribution that could be levied under the Free Libraries Act suffice to maintain the free library and provide for the museum and lectures and so forth?—I think not for a penny.

Mr. Woodall.

3083. What would the penny yield; what is the rateable value?—I could not tell you.

3084. And you do not know what the penny would yield; would it be 1,000*l.*?—More than that I think; possibly 2,000*l.*

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

3085. Do you think that amount would be sufficient to maintain the museum and technical classes and so forth?—No.

3086. Looking to the fact that the original museum was mainly for the purpose of imparting industrial education to the whole of the East End of London, is it your opinion that the withdrawal subsequently of the lecture hall, and the science and art department, and the library has given a fatal blow to the original inception of the museum?—That is were the crux of the whole thing is.

3087. And unless that deficiency is rectified the Bethnal Green Museum will never have a prospect of becoming useful for the original purpose?—It will always be below par.

3088. You mean it will never come up to the fulfilment of the original object?—At the original starting we were promised a lecture hall and technical classes and other things, and we have never had them.

3089. There



17 May 1898.]

Mr. NOKES.

[Continued.]

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

3089. There is perhaps one question in the way of correcting a statement made by you, which your later knowledge may enable you to do, and that is with regard to the house in which the present public library is situated; has it a house of its own?—It is a building really

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

lent as a free library, but the free library has outgrown the limits of it. It is not the free library property.

3090. Nor was it specially built for it?—Oh, dear no; it was lent. I wish to correct that statement.

Mr. JAMES BARTLETT, called in; and Examined.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.

3091. You are an old resident in Bethnal Green?—Over half a century.

3092. Do you know the Bethnal Green Museum well?—Very well indeed; I remember its inception as an idea, and I remember its being built as a fact.

3093. You remember its inception between 1865 and 1868?—About that date; I am not good at dates, but I remember it very well, and I attended several meetings called in connection with it.

3094. Can you tell the Committee whether the original inception included any idea of imparting instruction?—Yes, that is my distinct impression; my recollection serves me that it was intended to be a branch of the South Kensington Museum, offering specific facilities for educating the people of the East End.

3095. Of the whole of the East End?—Yes, in various trades and handicrafts, and as a general collection of works of art.

3096. And were it not for that special purpose, the Bethnal Green Museum would not have been to-day in existence?—I should think not; it would have had no practical purpose.

3097. Could you tell the Committee as to how the site for it was acquired?—The site it stands on is portion of a very old charity known as the Poors' Lands, and, as that was the best site in the neighbourhood for such an institution, I believe the Government was applied to and passed a small Act authorising the acquisition of a portion of that land for the erection of the museum. Inasmuch as the title deeds of the land forbade any building upon it, a special Act was obtained to facilitate the transfer. Public subscription, I believe, was invited, in order to raise funds sufficient to acquire the site. I do not know the amount, but the site was acquired, I believe, by public subscription.

3098. The amount of the subscription was devoted to the acquisition of the site?—Exactly.

3099. And the object of it was to put the Bethnal Green Museum upon it, entirely fitted out as a teaching institution under the Science and Art Department, and also accompanied by a library?—That was the general impression we all had that took an interest in the matter.

3100. Can you account in any way, as a resident of that locality, as to how, eventually, these adjuncts of the museum came to remain unfulfilled?—Well, I do not know what caused them to remain unfulfilled, but I know there was an impression at that time among many of the inhabitants, that they had not been served with what they were promised, that the institution had so far fallen short of its promise, and was more or less in consequence a failure.

0.5—12.

*Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

3101-2. Do you think that the Bethnal Green Museum is either a popular or a useful institution in the locality?—Well, as to its popularity, if attendance of students in the shape of boys and girls varying from 12 to 16 in large numbers is evidence, it is popular enough among such a class; but as to its usefulness, further than the impressions conveyed to the eye by its exhibits, I have come to the conclusion that it is practically very little use whatever.

3103. Have you any complaint to make, or have you heard of any complaint with regard to the exhibits?—No, I consider the exhibits in themselves very beautiful and very good; but being there continuously people do not care to look at the same things over and over and over again; and the result is having seen them once, until they know there is some fresh exhibit, they naturally do not go a second time.

3104. Do you consider that there have been changes often enough?—I do not think there have, not in order to keep the public sufficiently well interested in the collections.

3105. It has done really no teaching work, or cannot do it?—Well, teaching, strictly speaking, I should say it fails to accomplish; of course, it is an advantage as interesting the eye with works in various manufactures and art; but for the practical purposes of teaching, for anyone being the wiser of having seen it by being there, I think it so far fails.

3106. Have any exhibitions in recent years done anything towards fulfilling the teaching?—So far as the exhibitions generally are concerned, I am not in a position to say; my time is very limited, and I am not in a position to attend many exhibitions, but unless accompanied by some agency which the museum lacks, I think they are more or less a failure as educational agencies.

3107. Is it your opinion that if there was any system of lectures with regard to these exhibitions it would be more useful?—In my opinion that is just the candle that is wanted in the dark place. Lectures of a popular kind and lectures of a technical character in connection with exhibits, which the museum would have, would be the very change required to make it what it was intended to be.

3108. Do you think the want of a library in the museum a very serious one?—I do.

3109. Affecting its utility?—It is distinctly the key that is wanted, in my opinion, to open the door to make the museum what it is wanted to be.

3110. In case the original idea of the library is not for any reason carried out, do you think there is any library in the locality which might be usefully placed near the museum?—Yes, I

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17 May 1898.]

Mr. BARTLETT.

[Continued.]

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

am familiar with the library, a very excellent library, which exists in London-street, a most inconvenient part of the parish, however; but if that was in closer touch with the museum than it unfortunately is, I believe it would be of very great service to it, especially if lectures were conducted in regard to the library in connection with the various exhibits of trade and art in the museum; I think that would be very serviceable and do a great deal of good. It is distinctly because that element is wanting, that the museum is in a certain sense a sealed book.

3111. I suppose the existence of that library proves that although the locality is too poor to adopt the Free Libraries Act, still the want of a free library is felt and appreciated by the population?—Yes, I believe our people, although very poor, possess a fair amount of intelligence, and a desire to acquire more information than they have. The use to which the library is already put, I think, testifies to that fact, although it is situated in a most inconvenient spot, perhaps the worst part of the parish, as a matter of access.

Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*—continued.

3112. Does it contain a patents department?—It does, which I believe to the mechanical element of the neighbourhood is found to be almost invaluable.

3113. Is it made much use of?—I believe it is; the librarian informs me it is frequently used, and found to be very valuable indeed.

3114. Do you think, if located in a larger space than it is now, it would be made more use of?—I believe it would, certainly. The position it occupies and the narrowness of its space is a drawback to the use which, I believe, would be made of it if it was in a more commodious position.

Lord *Balcarres*.

3115. Do you think that the museum could be developed in such a way as to be of great value to the inhabitants in the East End of London?—I do, most decidedly.

[Adjourned to Friday next,  
at Twelve o'clock.]



Box No. 11  
Spaw cpz.

97.B.39.

## MEMBERS' CORRECTIONS.

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ANY Member of the Committee who desires to make any alterations in the Questions addressed by him to a Witness is requested to communicate the same to the Committee Clerk at the next meeting of the Committee.

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13.

Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.* 1898.

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## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN before the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE and ART DEPARTMENT.

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*Friday, 20th May 1898.*

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[Great inconvenience having arisen from the Publication of Minutes of Evidence taken before Committees, and of Papers, &c. laid before them, it is particularly requested that Members receiving such Minutes and Papers will be careful that they are confined to the object for which they are printed,—the special use of the Members of such Committees.]

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That the United States Government has been advised by the  
National Security Council that the following information is  
of a nature which, if disclosed, would be injurious to the  
national defense.

It is the policy of the United States Government to  
keep this information confidential.

# MINUTES OF MEETING

First meeting of the Joint Committee on the  
Organization of the Executive Branch of the  
Government.

1947

January 10, 1947

The following members of the Joint Committee on the  
Organization of the Executive Branch of the  
Government were present at the first meeting  
held on January 10, 1947, at the Executive  
Building, Washington, D. C.



*Friday, 20th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, IN THE CHAIR.

Sir HENRY ROSCOE, F.R.S., called in; and Examined.

*Chairman.*

3116. WILL you kindly follow the custom of describing the offices you fill?—I am a Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the Victoria University, Manchester.

3117. You have taken a deep interest for many years in scientific subjects?—I have, for the whole of my life.

*Mr. Woodall.*

3118. You served on the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction?—I served on the Royal Commission on Technical Instruction, and on the Royal Commission as to Secondary Education, and during the time that I was a Member of Parliament, from 1885 to 1895, I had occasion to serve on several Select Committees and on certain inter-departmental Committees with reference specially to the question of the Science and Art Department and the Museums. About those I can give further information if necessary.

*Chairman.*

3119. I believe you are still a member of the board of management of the Royal Commission of 1851?—Yes; I have succeeded Lord Playfair as Chairman of the Educational or Scholarships Committee, but I am on the board of management which has charge indeed of the whole of the property of the Royal Commissioners.

3120. We shall be very glad to receive information from you as to the conveyance of the site of the Royal Commission to the Board of Works?—I have here a statement which gives the exact wording—which I think it might be desirable for the Committee to possess—of the conveyance. The land, I should say, to begin with, is that plot situated to the south of what is known as the Imperial Institute-road, that is to say, between the Imperial Institute-road and the land occupied by the Natural History Museum, about which I do not think it necessary for me to give you any information. It is with regard to this particular block that I thought you might like to have an exact description. By the convey-  
0.5—13.

*Chairman—continued.*

ance, which is dated the 31st March 1890, from the Royal Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851 to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Works, of the land—as I have stated—at the south of the Imperial Institute-road, it is provided that the land conveyed—and now I give the words, “shall be permanently used for a purpose or purposes connected with science or the arts, but this agreement shall not be deemed to oblige the Commissioners of Works, their successors or assigns, to retain the said buildings now standing on the said site.” The buildings which are here referred to are the old arcades and galleries shown in the plan which I have here to hand in.

3121. Is that the plan which accompanied the Report of 1886?—This is the plan which the commissioners have had drawn to show the extent and position of the various plots of property which belonged to them, and if you desire to have it put in I shall be glad to put it in. I do not know that it is worth while. (*The plan was handed in.*) In my opinion, then, the foregoing provision is legally binding on the Commissioners of Works, and any breach could presumably be restrained by injunction.

3122. Was the line of the Imperial Institute-road made at the time of that conveyance?—Yes, the Imperial Institute-road is marked on the plan which I have handed in.

3123. Was it formed at the time of the conveyance?—It was formed at the time of the conveyance. If the Government should find that the land is not wanted for the purpose of science or the arts I would submit that they should return it to the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 on payment of the price paid for it; that is, supposing that the Commissioners consent to take it back. There has been a report. I do not know whether it has reached the Committee, that a proposal or suggestion has been made that the Government were going to make use of this land for building, and selling it for private dwellings. That is the reason I wish to point out that, under the agreement with the commissioners, the Government can only employ



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

employ it for the purposes of science and the arts.

3124. To the south of the Exhibition-road?—Yes, to the south of the Exhibition-road. If, indeed, it is to be disposed of for private purposes, surely it is the Commissioners who ought to derive the benefit from their land. If the Government decline to put up science and art buildings, buildings for science and the arts, and propose to put up private dwellings contrary to the distinct conveyance, it would surely be for the Commissioners of 1851 to reap the benefit of the value of their land for private purposes, and to use that money which they would thus gain for the purposes of scientific education. The price paid for the property in 1890 was 70,000*l.*, and the value, as then estimated, was 200,000*l.* The Government also bought another piece of property of the value of 30,000*l.* for the South Gallery.

3125. Do you say they did buy it?—They did buy it; and the Eastern and Western Galleries are leased to the Commissioners of Works by the Royal Commissioners for 50 years from Christmas 1891 at a rent of 3,654*l.* a year.

3126. I understand you have no special connection with the South Kensington Museum?—No.

3127. And you speak entirely as an independent scientific gentleman?—I have no connection whatever with the South Kensington Museum, and I am not here to represent them in any sense or shape. On the whole I probably might agree with their policy, but I do not represent them in any way, nor have I consulted them, nor have they consulted me as to any evidence I might give here.

3128. You have had great experience, probably no gentleman has had wider experience, of the building and working of chemical and physical laboratories?—That is so.

3129. And I believe you designed that admirable laboratory at Owen's College?—I did, now 25 years ago; and I may say it served as the model for almost all the laboratories, certainly all the laboratories that have been built since in England, and for many that have been built on the Continent. I know from my own experience from having visited all the continental laboratories. I know quite well the kind of work that is carried on there, and the needs and requirements of such places.

3130. I am informed by those best capable of judging than I am that there is considerable danger from fire and explosion even in the best managed laboratories?—That is distinctly so; the operations which are carried on in a chemical laboratory necessarily involve the use of inflammable materials and necessarily involve the constant application of gas and other heating materials for heating and the constant working with chemical substances which are inflammable and dangerous in that respect. I may say that there are very few laboratories which have not had outbreaks of fire from one cause or another, and in one particular instance I remember well we had an outbreak of fire in my laboratory at the Victoria University which was only put out because the caretaker or the man in charge happened to notice it before it became serious. I

*Chairman—continued.*

mean such things happen as that a bottle breaks which contains, for instance, strong nitric acid; this is packed in sawdust or in some straw or something of that sort, and the nitric acid comes in contact with the organic matter; oxidation is set up, and this gradually gets up a temperature sufficient to ignite the material, and then it goes on very rapidly. So that there are always these dangers in chemical laboratories from explosions, and the use, as I say, of volatile materials, alcohol, ether, and so on, which are constantly and daily being employed. There is always a danger more or less of outbreaks of fire.

3131. Apart from the danger from an actual outbreak of fire, does any danger arise to works of art from fumes?—Well, a chemical laboratory is not a place where you would put any valuable pictures or tapestries or articles of silver, and the neighbourhood of a chemical laboratory is not the exact place where you would wish to see articles of value, art treasures, accommodated.

3132. And as a general principle, in fact, you would separate a chemical laboratory from an art collection?—I most certainly would; I understand this Committee was called together and is acting under the impression, which the public and the House of Commons certainly afterwards held, that the buildings were not fireproof and that there was danger of fire; no doubt that was probably the case, but to now propose that the chemical laboratories should be placed in contact with these art treasures seems to me to be almost absurd; it appears to me to be almost more dangerous to put a chemical laboratory in contact with these works of art than it would be with ordinary dwelling-houses, for example.

3133. What do you mean by the term "contact," which you have just employed?—I mean in close proximity to.

3134. The College of Science is now on the east side of the road?—That is so, but I presume that the proposal is to remove the laboratories for chemistry and for physics, and probably for metallurgy, which are now situated in that building on the east side away on to the west side, so that any danger which there may be now would hereafter disappear from those particular and dangerous sources; on the other hand, nobody would object to the departments of zoology, biology, geology, and mineralogy being placed in that building, because in carrying on the work which these departments require there are not the same sources of danger.

3135. Your remark made just now applies to the risk of fire?—Yes; and what I wish to say in answer to your question is that it is at present undesirable; the present condition of things is not what it ought to be; that is to say, the chemical laboratories and the physical laboratories and the mineralogical laboratories are at the present moment in proximity with the art collections on the east side, and my point is that those ought to be removed and that the space which they occupy now in that building ought to be used for scientific purposes, the carrying out of which does not entail danger such as I have mentioned.

3136. Then as regards the position on the east side, in relation to traffic and vibration arising from



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

from traffic, do you consider there is any objection on that ground?—That is a very important point; before I leave the question of danger from fire, I should like to add that, to my own knowledge, it is not merely the chemical laboratories which are exposed to this danger, but also the physical; for instance, I know for a fact that in some physical laboratories, where now electricity on a large scale is introduced, accidents have occurred from the accidental bringing together of the leads from the dynamo, and which have resulted in an outbreak of fire; so that it is not only the chemical laboratories which ought to be removed, but likewise the physical. With regard to the point you have raised, Mr. Chairman, I wish to say that that is a matter of great importance.

3137. Would you recommend the removal of the present college of science from the east to the west of Exhibition-road?—No, I would not do so; I think I have stated that there are plenty of scientific purposes for which that college of science can be very properly used, and it would not involve any risk from fire or fumes to the art treasures. With regard to the fitness of the east side for a physical laboratory, that is, in my opinion, about the most unfit site that could be found.

3138. Will you give your reasons for that objection?—The reasons I would give for that are the proximity of the traffic in Exhibition-Road, and in the Cromwell-road. Perhaps it is difficult to appreciate the necessity of a position for a chemical laboratory as far as possible removed from traffic; for a great number of investigations, and, indeed, for all the ordinary purposes of carrying on magnetic and electrical work it is necessary to have a fixed and unalterable position for the instruments; I mean where the vibrations are not constant and considerable; and I know this, that the scientific staff in connection with the Royal College of Science have made it their business to ascertain these facts, and they have come to the conclusion that the position which has been suggested for the physical laboratory, namely, somewhere near the corner of Exhibition-road and Cromwell-road, is about the most unfit place that could be found, and it would not be easy for them, or not possible for them, I presume, to carry on this delicate work; whereas the position which has been suggested on the west side would altogether be free from these objections; there there is very little traffic, and the position that has been marked out for these particular parts of the building would be free from those objections.

3139. I believe that plans have been drawn for laboratories on the west side?—That is so. Most complete plans have been drawn up by the Office of Works.

3140. Have you seen them?—I happen to have seen them; by the kindness of the officials there I was allowed to see them. I believe they are considered private. I may say they have been drawn up with the approval or with the assistance of the scientific men who really know what they want. To build a building of that kind it is an absolute necessity that expert

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*Chairman—continued.*

knowledge should be employed. You may design a place for a House of Commons or for a court of law with general knowledge, but you cannot design a laboratory without special knowledge of what really the experts require, and that has been done in this case.

3141. Is that the usual course of action on the part of the Office of Works?—I do not think it is unusual; that is to say, I think the Office of Works are fully aware that a mere architect or a designer of buildings without expert advice cannot carry out the work. I may state that that has certainly been the case with the new Government laboratories which have just been built near the Law Courts, which have been carried out under the superintendence of Sir John Taylor, and with the assistance of Dr. Thorpe, who is now the chief Government chemist. They have, together, built and fitted the laboratory for the Inland Revenue with a care and with a completeness which is not equalled by any, I think I may say, institution of the kind either at home or abroad.

3142. On that occasion the experts were consulted, and their advice was carefully followed?—Yes; and the results have proved most satisfactory.

3143. I asked you a moment since if you had seen the plans for the scientific laboratories on the west side; did they commend themselves to your mind after examination?—They did. Of course I had not the opportunity of going into them very fully, but so far as I can judge, they are exactly what is wanted.

3144. Of course each country must judge for itself as to its own institutions of every kind, but having regard to what is going on on the Continent of Europe as regard science, do you think the suggestion of mixing up a science laboratory and an art gallery will commend itself to the scientific mind of Europe?—I think, on the contrary, anyone who knows what the requirements of art galleries and what the requirements now and in the future will be, especially for science instruction and education, would altogether regard it as ridiculous to mix up the two things.

3145. How do we stand in comparison with the great cities abroad, or even with some of the smallest?—At present we are in a position which is not at all a desirable one; in the amount of space which is given to the science instruction of the country, we are much below in every case what I may call third rate cities on the Continent, not to compare with cities such as Paris, Berlin, or Vienna, or even I may say Zurich, in which the amount of space and money devoted to these purposes is far greater.

3146. Do you think that when the buildings now in hand have been designed, regard must be had to the future?—I think most decidedly so; we must remember we are not building for to-day but perhaps for the next 50 years, or even for the next century, and that it would be the greatest possible mistake simply to go on a hand-to-mouth policy of making shift for what is wanted to-day.

3147. In describing the purposes of the trust, in an early answer to a question from the Chair, you read the words "the arts"?—I did.

3148. What



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

3148. What interpretation do you put on those words?—I did so in the first place because those are the words in the conveyance, and because I wished to indicate the difference between “the arts” and “art”; that this site was not set apart for what we know as an art museum, but it was set aside for science and arts; that is to say, the scientific application of the arts and industries, such for example, as all the most valuable historical apparatus and machinery that is now exhibited in that south gallery. I remember, when I was in the House of Commons, I was asked to join a committee for the purpose of reporting on these very matters; that is to say, upon the machines and models which illustrate scientific principles and the application of scientific principles to the arts and manufactures; and it was thought by some that the space occupied by these old engines in the left gallery was space which might be devoted much more profitably to other objects. I am glad to say that the Committee agreed in the contrary view, namely, that these objects which are there installed are of the very greatest possible historical value, indeed they may be said to represent the rise and growth of the application of scientific principles to the great industries of England, because they are in most cases the actual engines and machines which were used by the great discoverers, Arkwright, and Watt, and so forth, and to put these away seemed to us a piece of vandalism that could only be compared to smashing up the Elgin Marbles and using them to make lime. So I am glad to say all these things remain there, and that is one of the objects of a science museum, to contain and properly house all these models and machines of historical interest, and besides that to obtain what is equally necessary, a regular series which is now becoming most valuable of accurate measuring instruments of the most delicate and precise character which are all the property of the Government and which can be used for Government purposes.

3149. Does that complete what you wish to say on that branch of the case?—I think that is about all.

3150. I think you represent the University of London?—I do; I happen to be the Vice-Chancellor of the University at the present time.

3151. I think you wish to tender some evidence on that point?—The point which I would like to bring before the Committee is the fact that in carrying out the work of the University of London we have to apply apparatus both for physical and chemical examinations. Our examinations are now becoming well known and are very valuable, especially the practical examinations in science. Well, now, for this purpose we have brought together a considerable stock of apparatus of various kinds which we employ in the practical examination of our candidates. When the present building of the University of London was arranged for in Burlington Gardens no idea then entered into the minds of the senate of the university, or indeed of anybody connected with education, that it would be necessary in subsequent years instead of examining people merely out of books to make them work practically at practical science. The consequence is that whilst now we have to examine a

*Chairman—continued.*

very large number of candidates practically for their science degrees we have no place to stock this apparatus; we have applied over and over again to the Government for assistance for this purpose. We not only have no place to stock this apparatus, but we have no place for examining the students. Our laboratory accommodation is of the most restricted character and, in short, proper practical examinations cannot be carried on under the present conditions. In order to show the great increase of candidates which necessitates the application for assistance in this respect, I may say that taking the last 10 years in our intermediate science examinations, in the year 1886 there were 117 candidates; two years afterwards in 1888 there were 163 candidates; and last year there were no less than 438 candidates who had to be practically examined in science. For the degree of B.Sc. in the same way the numbers have increased from 68 in 1886 up to 211 in 1897. For the preliminary scientific, which is one of the preliminary medical examinations, in which also practical examinations in science have to be gone through, the numbers have risen from 235 up to 378 in the past year. This is only to show how necessary it is that we should have further accommodation both in the way of museum and in the way of laboratories.

3152. Do you mean in connection with the University of London?—I am speaking of the University of London. If an arrangement which has been often proposed were made, namely, that accommodation were given for our holding our examinations and for storing and taking care of our apparatus; if that arrangement were made with the South Kensington authorities (because I may remind you that the University of London is a Government institution; it is a Government Department just as much as any other department; all our inkstands are marked “V.R.,” all our apparatus is bought with Government money and belong to the Government), if then this arrangement were brought about, that we could examine our students in practical science at South Kensington in proper shape and fashion, and could secure our apparatus and have the care of the apparatus given over to our South Kensington expert, and if also we were able, as we do in fact sometimes, to obtain the loan of some of the apparatus kept at South Kensington for the purpose of examining our students, if that could be done we should be in a position which would be most favourable for the examination of the science candidates.

3153. You would use this apparatus both for the science schools at Kensington and also for the University of London in common?—Yes, that is the proposal, that they would use our apparatus and that we should use theirs; in fact that it would become so far as that is concerned one institution. I may add, in order to give you an idea that the cost of the accommodation we have estimated would be needed for the purpose of carrying out these examinations in practical science would certainly not exceed 20,000*l.*, whilst the amount of our fees received, for example, last October alone, in the one examination for the science degrees, would more than amount to the interest on the money. So that the



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Chairman—continued.*

the actual fees which we receive in one examination in October, at the present rate, would pay the interest on what we think is a fair sum to put for the expense of building our requirements.

3154. Do the University propose to make any contribution towards the expense?—The University of London is, as I have said, a Government department; we pay every penny we receive as fees into the Treasury, and if you will consult the estimates you will find that under the head of the University of London, the cost of the university to the nation is sometimes 100%, and sometimes the nation benefits to the tune of 100% or 200%. Under the estimates, really, our fees cover our expenses, and that all goes to the Treasury. The Treasury furnishes, I may add, printing and house room, and if that is charged, as it is charged, in the estimates under other heads, the cost of the printing and lighting, and electricity, and heating our premises in Burlington-gardens, that remains a charge against the Government.

3155. On the other hand, the Government receive the fees?—The Government receive the fees entirely.

*Mr. Woodall.*

3156. So that the quota due from the university towards the expense of conducting these examinations at South Kensington, would be represented by the surplus money now paid into the Treasury?—That is so. Might I say that I might hand into the Committee a printed document which has just been drawn up by the university, giving an account of what has taken place from the year 1888 to the present time, with regard to this matter which I have been speaking about.

*Chairman.*

3157. Will you put it in?—Yes, if you please. May I call attention to a letter which has been written by the registrar of the University to the Board of Works, dated October 11th last, which gives the state of things as existing at the present moment. The formal part of the document is historical.

3158. Is there any particular passage of that document to which you wish to direct our special attention which may be given in the form of an answer?—If I might do so, I should be glad to read you one or two sentences from the letter. The registrar writes to the Board of Works, to the Hon. Reginald Brett: "Sir,—I feel it absolutely necessary once more to beg you to call the attention of the First Commissioner to the intolerable conditions under which the university has to provide laboratory accommodation for its increasingly numerous candidates in science and medicine. There is, in fact, but one small chemical laboratory, 60 feet by 30 feet, at its disposal, one of an altogether insufficient character even for the students (batches of 44 or more have to be crowded within its narrow space) whose needs it subserves. An ordinary examination room, the library, and a basement printing room, have to be specially installed, fitted up and arranged for the practical examinations in physics, biology, and pathology each time these examinations are held. The inconvenience of this system to the university is beyond words, 0.5—13.

*Chairman—continued.*

the injustice to candidates is most serious, and the extent to which the examinations are thus limited is most injurious to the character of the degrees in science, and medicine, and, in addition, entirely prevents the natural development of the examinations in accordance with the advancement of science." That, I think, gives you an idea of our position. With regard to what has been done I may perhaps be allowed to read the following remark: "Some 10 years ago a sum of 9,000*l.* was voted for the provision of laboratories, but no portion of this credit has been yet expended. Since that time a scheme has been mooted and plans drawn for a joint set of laboratories for the Royal College of Science and the university mainly of an examinational character, which would subserve the needs of both institutions at a cost probably not exceeding one-half of what would be incurred were they separately provided for. Under this scheme, too, the charge of maintenance and supervision of the laboratories would be very greatly lessened, and installation and apparatus kept in good order at a minimal cost." I think that gives the position of things at present. I think that is all I wish to call attention to.

3158\*. I believe a memorial has been presented to the Prime Minister by the Royal Society, respecting the separation of the science and art collection?—That is so.

3159. Will you put it in?—I will. Of course, I had great satisfaction in signing the memorial, and a copy of it is here. The names are not appended to it.

3160. Will you add the names?—I will add the names.

3161. Will you describe the purpose of the memorial?—Perhaps I had better read the actual words of the prayer.

3162. Please do so?—"We desire most respectfully to express to your Lordship our strong opinion that it is desirable to adhere to the policy, namely, that the needful expansion of the science buildings at South Kensington should be provided for on the west side of Exhibition-road, which has been acted upon and probably acknowledged by the Government since 1890, and is in strict harmony with the recommendations of the Duke of Devonshire's Commission. We are confirmed in this opinion by the fact that the space, which we understand is available for science on the east side of Exhibition-road, is but a small fraction of that which is devoted to similar purposes in many foreign towns."

3163. I believe the present proposals are wholly novel; they are an entirely new departure?—I do not understand what you mean by present proposals.

3164. Putting art and science together?—I think the proposal is an entirely novel one. I mean, I think it is a proposal which nobody who understands anything about science or art would make. I cannot imagine any expert, either in science or art, making such a proposal. It has been made, I believe.

*Mr. Woodall.*

3165. Are you aware that a statement has been made in the House of Commons that that is



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

is the view of the Office of Works, and that they have been preparing plans on that principle?—I am perfectly well aware that the Board of Works have been preparing plans to put both the science and art on to the east side. I am perfectly well aware of that. As to the statement in the House of Commons I do not know.

3166. And you are probably aware that a provisional report has been agreed to unanimously by this Committee condemnatory to those proposals?—I am aware of that fact, and I was extremely glad to see it.

3167. And the Royal Society supports the view arrived at by this Committee?—The Royal Society have enforced the view, and it was with that object that I thought I might perhaps be able to assist in that way if I came before the Committee.

Sir Henry Howorth.

3168. I was going to ask a question about the transfer of this land, which perhaps might throw light on the view of the Government with regard to it. Is it the case that the commissioners, when the whole of this land on the west side of the road was in their hands, did sell a portion of it for the erection of private houses?—The commissioners have sold and are selling still portions of their land for private houses. They have sold a great proportion of the land facing to Queen's Gate; they have sold a large proportion of the land to the north of the new road above the Imperial Institute on the right hand side for mansions, which are now being built; and, in fact, that is the source from which they derive their income, from selling the land and investing the proceeds.

3169. I am not speaking now about the greater portion, but one portion of this land that was sold is a distinct encroachment on the piece of ground opposite the Imperial Institute on which these science buildings ought to be?—There is, I believe, a portion at the end of Queen's Gate, at the Queen's Gate end, which has been built upon, but that was not in the portion which was sold to the Government; and moreover, on the other side there is a post office which is also a distinct encroachment on the part of the Government on the agreement under which the land was sold.

3170. Was that only conveyed on the understanding that it was to be a temporary matter?—That land upon which the Natural History Museum stands, was also sold subject to the words which I have read as conveying the portion of land of which I have been speaking. The same covenant was made in both cases; in the previous case, when the land occupied by the Natural History Museum was sold, and the one to which I have alluded.

3171. Have you ever made a protest as commissioners against the Government appropriating a portion of this site for the purpose of a post office?—I really do not know.

3172. But in your opinion that is distinctly a contravention of the arrangement?—I have not the slightest doubt about that.

3173. Is that a portion of the land contained in that conveyance?—That is not on the land

0.5—13.

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

about which I have been speaking; that is on a portion of the land which belongs to or has been handed over for the Natural History Museum.

3174. When this land was handed over, apart altogether from that covenant, the commissioners distinctly had in view that the Government intended to build a great physical museum and laboratory on that ground?—That is so; it was a distinct understanding. I happened to be in the House, I remember when the bargain was made, and I was privy to the arrangement, although I was not then one of the Royal Commissioners; I as a Member of Parliament was on the Committee when that matter was arranged, and it was a distinct understanding that that should be used for the purposes of sciences and the arts alone.

3175. As to the plans that you saw and that were prepared for the purpose of carrying out this scheme, what did they embody, how much of the science museum and how much of the science teaching did they embody?—They were most complete, but I do not think I am in a position to give you the details for I only had a glance at them for a short time, they were apparently most complete.

3176. I might put it a little definitely, did they contemplate, for instance, the transfer of the present chemical and physical laboratories in so far as you find them just now dangerous to the other side of the road?—Certainly.

3177. It was contemplated that the chemical laboratory, the metallurgical laboratory, and the physical laboratory in which electricity and magnetism were dealt with, were to be transferred?—That is so.

3178. And in regard also to the astronomical part, the part under Sir Norman Lockyer, was that also to be transferred?—It was.

3179. Do I understand you to say, that in your view if there was a substitution in the building on the east side of the road the geological side of the teaching for the chemical, that would take away your objection to the danger, apart from all other considerations you feel might arise?—That is my opinion.

3180. Because the geological teaching is now on the other side of the road entirely?—Yes, to some extent; of course there is a geological department now in that building, but it requires great increase and there would be no more space than could probably be used by the subjects connected with the teaching of science, taking out the chemistry, taking out the physics, and taking out the metallurgy.

3181. If you took those out as far as the laboratories are concerned, would you also transfer the whole of the teaching in those subjects, or would you have a breach between the museum and the class-rooms?—I would transfer the whole of the teaching in those subjects to the new buildings in connection with what is so very important in connection with the science museum.

3182. From what you know of the building, would that substitution involve very great structural changes?—Yes; it would involve building a new building, and the plans that I refer to were plans of the new building to be put on that site.

3183. I do



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

3183. I do not quite make myself clear. It would involve a new building on the west side of Exhibition-road; but what I mean is the substitution of the geological teaching for the present chemical teaching on the east side of the road; would that involve great structural changes in the present building?—No, that would not involve great structural alteration; of course, there would have to be some alterations, but the building could easily be changed, and instead of having a chemical laboratory, and whatever the geological laboratory was you would have a geological museum; the rooms could equally well be appropriated to the other purposes without great cost.

3184. Sir Norman Lockyer when here the other day, while he said he thought it was not advisable to press for the entire removal of the school of science to the other side of the road, said he thought eventually it would have to be removed. Do you contemplate that as the eventual bourne of the whole of the science teaching?—It is very difficult to know what Sir Norman means by eventuality. I should say that as far as I can judge, at any rate for our time and the time of our sons, and probably grandsons, the arrangement which I propose would be sufficient, but one cannot say what the future has in store for us in that way.

3185. That is granting that there is sufficient room for the expansion of the art museum on the other side?—Yes, I suppose that is so. I do not pretend to know what are the exact requirements of the art museum, but I cannot help thinking that, looking at it simply in that respect, it would be a false move, to say the least of it, to put the science department as well on that ground. I think that if they cannot occupy the whole of it at the present time for the art department, in coming time they certainly will need the whole of that space for art exhibitions of one sort or another.

3186. Suppose I put it in this way: Suppose you were to start *de novo* and wanted an ideal solution of the whole difficulty, you would not separate the science teaching into two parts, and put one portion on the west and one on the east, as it is just now, and as it will be under the proposition you make?—Certainly not; if I were building a building for science teaching I should build it so that each department had its proper location, and that they were all in proper order, and in situations conveniently placed close together.

3187. You do not agree with the opinion which has been expressed here that by having very tall chimneys you practically get rid of all dangers from these chemical fumes?—I think it would be very dangerous. I know this; as to the tall chimneys they may take the acid fumes from the exact neighbourhood, but they will bring them down somewhere else, and I do not think it at all advisable to have chimneys in that position, nor do I think that would be an effective cure. I would rather remove the cause from the position in which it is likely to be dangerous.

3188. Now, with regard to your proposal about the housing of the apparatus and finding room for the examination for the University of London;

0.5—13

Sir Henry Howorth—continued.

would you limit that to the University of London entirely, or would you think it would raise claims on behalf of other teaching and examining bodies?—I should be very glad to see the whole of that science museum made useful to the whole population, not only of London, but if possible elsewhere. I should be very glad to see the science apparatus used generally, but, of course, the difficulties of doing that are extremely great. I mean to say if every board school or technical school in London is to be at liberty to send for the Government apparatus from South Kensington to their own place and use it there, then the difficulties would be very great indeed, and it would be impracticable indeed that that should be carried out. I think there are ways in which the apparatus might be made useful to other institutions, but I do not think that it would do to have a circulating arrangement as they have with the art things, which are sent to be looked at. Whereas the science things are wanted to be used. It would be impossible to send the apparatus round to the different schools, unless, indeed, we had a very large assortment. There have been proposals made, and I believe they are acted upon still, that a sort of model collections of apparatus have been sent round the country to show the managers or the schoolmasters the kind of apparatus which it is desirable, under its authority, that they should purchase or make for their school. These, I think, are very valuable, and in that way the Central Science Museum might be made available for the country and do very excellent work, but I should deprecate the sending of fine instruments away to this place and that place.

3189. The point I was rather making was this: I daresay most of us would be completely in sympathy with your view about the London University; how do you distinguish the claims of the London University when compared with those other teaching institutions to be assisted to this extent out of the Science and Art Vote?—The London University is a department of the State. The London University, I say, is a department, I do not know to what department it belongs, but it is a Government department, and therefore has as much right to Government care as the South Kensington Museum itself.

3190. Would you like the London University to be put under the Science and Art Department?—That is a totally different question; you would scarcely expect me to answer that question.

Mr. Woodall.

3191. You have made it clear to us that you would like to keep the art collections at South Kensington free from any possible danger from fire, or injury from fumes arising from chemical and other experiments; but apart from those considerations, do you see any advantage in the proximity of the art collections on the one hand and science collections on the other, for purposes of consultation and study?—No, I see no advantages whatever. I think they ought to be kept perfectly separate. I do not know such a thing on the continent, or in the civilized world, as putting close together the art collections and the science laboratories.

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3192. You



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Mr. Woodall—continued.

3192. You are anticipating the question I wish to put to you upon that. You have already told us you do not know any case where the collections of works of art are in close juxtaposition with science collections?—I do not, and I believe there is no such case; indeed I go so far as to say that a proposition of that kind would be ridiculed by any continental expert either on art or science.

3193. And therefore the Exhibition-road would seem to you to be the natural boundary between the two departments of science on the one hand and art on the other?—Exactly.

3194. You know the collection in Jermyn-street?—I do.

3195. You are probably aware that the Committee has arrived at a conclusion that it is expedient that the collections should be transferred from Jermyn-street, and that space should be found for them at South Kensington?—Is that a recommendation contained in your intermediate report?

3196. Yes. Have you any suggestion to offer to the Committee as to the expediency of amalgamating the geological and other collections at Jermyn-street with similar collections at South Kensington, or do you see any desirability of their being kept strictly apart as being a Jermyn-street collection historically formed?—Upon that point I do not think I could give any very definite information. Geology is not exactly my subject, and I know this, that there is a great deal of difference of opinion on that question. As far as I myself could speak, I should say that on the whole it is desirable that these sort of collections should be brought together, and therefore, looking at it from a general point of view, I should be inclined to say that it is advisable that the geological collections in Jermyn-street should be brought to South Kensington; but on the other hand there is, as I have said, considerable objection raised on the part of the geologists to this change, and then again I think too that it is clearly necessary that if that were done it would be absolutely necessary that new buildings should be built; there is no room in the present building at South Kensington for the geological museum, at any rate there is no room for the geological museums until the laboratories for chemistry, for physics, and metallurgy, and so forth, have been erected.

3197. The Committee contemplates naturally a very extensive series of constructions at South Kensington for the accommodation of all these science collections, and, presumably, a special building would have to be erected for the accommodation of the Jermyn-street collection?—Yes.

3198. The only point upon which I was anxious to know whether you had any particular view was as to whether the Jermyn-street collection should be safeguarded as something specially sacred arising from the manner in which it had been brought together, or whether it may be more advantageously blended with the other collections?—I never conceived that there could be anything very sacred about the collections, whether collected by Murchison or any other great man that has gone before, and therefore the question would arise simply, in my mind, as

Mr. Woodall—continued.

to what is the most expedient mode of carrying out the work which these collections are required to do. On that subject, I should say that if we are to make a great collection of science museums at South Kensington, I think the geological museum ought to form part of it.

3199. And unless there was some strong expressed wish on the part of the founders entitled to be respected, you would see no advantage in retaining the pottery which is now to be found in Jermyn-street; I mean to say those examples of Wedgwood ware and pottery of the last and present century which are to be found at Jermyn-street, you would see no particular reason for keeping those as part of the geological collection?—No, certainly not. Of course if Jermyn-street is to be moved everything contained in Jermyn-street should be moved, and why the collections, other than geological collections, should be put into the geological museum I, for my part, cannot understand. If there are pots or anything else there they ought to go into the proper place for them, in the museum or elsewhere.

Dr. Farquharson.

3200. Do you think the present is a great opportunity of building science buildings which may place us in a desirable position, not of rivalry, but of equality with foreign nations as regards science teaching?—I feel so most strongly, and that this Committee would do a work which would be of national value if they could by any means induce the Government to do what has been so long promised, and which has been pointed out to them over and over again by scientific and other evidence, is so necessary for the welfare of the nation.

3201. And you think that aspiration would be seriously interfered with if the east side were chosen for a scientific building?—I think it would be the greatest possible mistake, and I think it would not be doing what we should do, and would be throwing away, as you very properly express it, an opportunity which may not occur again in our lifetime.

3202. We have heard that the Office of Works have apparently decided that these buildings are to be placed on the east side. What is the absolute jurisdiction of the Office of Works in this matter. Is their jurisdiction final?—On that subject I am afraid I should prefer that you should ask some member of the Committee; I do not feel able to give an opinion on it. I suppose that Parliament must decide the question; it must be one to come before the House of Commons, I presume.

3203. I only ask the question because I think the expression has been used here to-day that the Office of Works have decided?—Did I use that word; I do not think I used it.

Mr. Woodall.] I think the expression used was that they had prepared plans.

Dr. Farquharson.

3204. That excites a certain amount of suspicion in one's mind?—Certainly.

3205. If they finished those plans and attempted to make a final decision, I presume the committee of council would have a veto on those proceedings?—I presume so.

3206. That



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

3206. That is one reason why you were anxious to come here to-day to give your opinion, as representing science against this proposal to put the buildings on the east side?—Yes, I think it is time that men of science spoke out on the subject; we have already done so in that memorial that has been referred to, and I thought perhaps that my appearing before you to-day might have some little influence in the way of showing that scientific men generally are entirely opposed to this proposal that has been made. I may add that the professional men, men of very high position and eminent men of science, who are connected with the Royal College of Science, are unanimously in favour of the proposal I have endeavoured to bring before you and which you, in fact, have supported in your interim report.

3207. Do you happen to know that the authorities, before making up their mind to place the science buildings on the east side, have consulted scientific authority on the matter?—I did not hear that that has been done at all.

3208. Would it, in your view, be a natural course before any Government proceeded to take a step like that, that they should call into consultation the heads of the scientific knowledge of the country?—I cannot conceive that it can be right for any Government to make a proposal and to carry out a proposal of this kind, without consulting men who know really what is wanted.

3209. Do you know how those things are done in foreign countries; supposing, in Berlin, a similar set of buildings were to be erected, would science probably be consulted there?—Most certainly it would.

3210. You told us something about the danger to pictures and art treasures from fumes from laboratories; is it necessary to be in a state of great concentration in order to do harm?—On the contrary, the action of these acid gases, even when dilute, when continued from year to year, or long continued periods, act equally prejudicially as strong fumes would do in a short time; there is a cumulative action on the part of these gases on the frames or pictures, or works of art, in fact, we see it very much in London, how difficult it is to keep things bright and clean, owing to the quantity of sulphur contained in the air of London; and to increase that would seem simply an act of folly.

3211. Is not the House of Commons itself an object lesson in connection with the frescoes here?—Yes, it is.

3212. Simply from the action of the ordinary London atmosphere?—Yes.

3213. If the action of that ordinary London atmosphere were accentuated by even a very dilute dose of chemical gases, you would consider that to be dangerous?—Most decidedly.

3214. Even if an art building were put at one end, and a science building at the other, on this piece of ground, you consider the atmosphere, being charged with a small dose of chemical gas, would be dangerous to the pictures?—I think there is a distinct danger, and the further you can put them away the better.

3215. I think you pointed out further drawbacks in the east piece of ground—proximity to the traffic?—Yes.

0.5—13.

Dr. Farquharson—continued.

3216. There is no possibility of avoiding that?—There is absolutely no cure for that.

3217. The nature of the ground renders it absolutely necessary that the buildings shall be placed near the traffic?—Yes.

3218. Which is considerable at that point?—It is very considerable.

3219. There is the vibration and noise; is it not possible that at some future period an electric railway may be made along that bit of ground?—It is very possible we may have electric tramways before long through the main thoroughfares, and then the current of electricity would entirely spoil and prevent experiments of that kind I have referred to being made.

3220. My honourable friend reminds me that electric subways have already been sanctioned?—There is one.

3221. You would hold that an electric railway, or tramway, or subway, or in fact, any electrical machine running along there, might possibly interfere with some of the more delicate operations of science?—Yes, it would.

3222. On the east side, if it were possible that buildings should be placed there, would there be the same opportunity for expansion that you very properly desiderate?—I have not seen the proposed plans for the east side, and I cannot say how much of that land is devoted to science, and how much to art in their proposals; but I certainly think that whilst on the west side there is plenty of room for expansion, on the east side there certainly cannot be the same amount of room. I suppose the only reason why they propose to put both art and science on the east side is a matter of economy; I suppose it is only to save their pocket; I suppose no other earthly reason can be assigned for it. It cannot be that they think it better for the sake of the art or for the sake of the science.

3223. Might not that economy be a very expensive thing in the end?—I think it is a penny wise and a pound foolish.

3224. Have you paid a recent visit to the art collections at South Kensington?—No, I do not know much about art.

3225. At all events, you would be prepared to admit that the art collections are excessively cramped?—So I am told.

3226. And that they are shown at a great disadvantage?—They are, I believe, and I believe we have a vast quantity of valuable art treasures in a sort of temporary buildings on the west side, the Indian collections and so forth, which ought all to be properly housed.

3227. Would there be any difficulty in taking out from the College of Science the chemical and other departments, and placing them alongside of the Science and Art Department on the west side, any administrative difficulty, I mean?—I do not think so.

3228. What is the exact connection; I am a little hazy in my mind as to the exact connection between the College of Science and the Science and Art Department?—The College of Science is at present a part of the Science and Art Department under the Education Department or under the Vice-President and the President of the Council, and it is a Government institution in which science is taught the professors are

paid



20 May 1898.]

Sir H. ROSCOE, F.R.S.

[Continued.]

*Dr. Farquharson—continued.*

paid by Government, and the cost of the whole thing is put upon the Estimates.

3229. There is no earthly difficulty in taking away those departments which may be injurious to art from the east side, from the College of Science, and placing them on the west side along with the other chemical and metallurgical part?—Not the least; that is what everybody wishes to see done.

3230. I do not know whether the scientific authorities at South Kensington or the College of Science have been consulted with regard to the general arrangements of the scientific buildings on the west side. Sir Norman Lockyer stated he had not been consulted personally about the plan for the scientific buildings on the west side?—I do not know; I have not been consulted about it, but I believe that some of the experts connected with the Royal College of Science were consulted in the matter. At any rate, some rough plans were drawn out by them, and they were submitted to Sir John Taylor, and he drew out a detailed plan.

3231. Those are the buildings on the east side. There is no doubt that the scientific authorities were consulted about Sir John Taylor's plan on the east side?—I am speaking of the west side.

3232. Sir John Taylor's plan is a plan for the west side?—Yes.

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen.*

3233. I did not feel quite clear as to your view of the extension of the use of the museum, whether you thought it could be used for the benefit of the more distant provincial towns or only for the benefit of London?—What I wished to convey was that I do not believe it would be advisable to send out the delicate apparatus to places at a distance, even to schools in London. I think that the delicate apparatus cannot be moved any great distance and can only be used by people on the spot. At the same time, I think that the art things might be made available, and I instanced a case of what has been done, namely, that certain collections or selections of apparatus, model apparatus, have been made and have been circulated. At one time they were circulated, and I suppose they are still circulated. In that way the scientific museum might be made available for distant places.

3234. That is circulated throughout the country?—Yes, they were sent wherever they were wanted.

3235. Do you care to express any opinion as to whether that kind of thing should continue to be done from South Kensington, or whether it might be better done from other centres, such as Owen's College?—Well, you see things change so much, and what was useful five or 10 years

*Mr. Humphreys-Owen—continued.*

ago is not useful now, because things are advanced; our knowledge has advanced and people know what they want without being told, therefore I am not sure that these select specimens are circulated at the present moment, but something of that kind might be done, I think. I think it had better be done from a Government place rather than from any local place, because in the first place it is a Government work, and in the second place it had better be done from one centre rather than from others.

3236. About the University of London; I understood you to say that it returned a profit, but that is not the case if you take into account the additional charges which are made; I find in the Estimates besides the charges directly taken under the Education Vote there are charges for buildings, rates, stationery, non-effective services, and so on, coming in all to 4,733*l.*?—Yes, I mentioned that. The university does cost the Government really, those things being reckoned, about 4,000*l.* a year. What I meant was to say that under the head of the University of London in the Estimates you will find that the thing is nearly balanced.

3237. You were asked whom you would like to be under. As a matter of fact you are under the Treasury straight?—Yes, under the Treasury, that is to say, so far as educational matters are concerned; so far, academical matters are concerned we govern ourselves; we do not ask the Treasury about changes in the academic arrangements in the syllabuses or about arrangements of the degrees; that the senate of the university does upon its own initiative.

3238. Unless they involve money?—Unless the questions involve money; and there are questions, for instance, of the appointment of senators; that is in the hands of the Queen, and so forth.

*Mr. Yoxall.*

3239. You said that there were reasons for and against the transfer of the Geological Museum from Jermyn-street to South Kensington, but I suppose you would hold that there was one strong reason, and that was to have the museum itself near the Schools of Geology, it would be a good thing to have the Museum near the School of Geology?—Certainly; it would be advisable to have the collections near the School of Science, but the matter is very much complicated by the fact that this Geological Museum is a part of what is known as the Geological Survey, which is an entirely different Government Department from the South Kensington Teaching Department.

[Adjourned.]







Select Committee on  
*Museums of the Science and Art Department.*  
1898.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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*Friday, 20th May 1898*

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*Sir Henry Roscoe, F.R.S.*

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